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AUTHORITY
ENTER-- THE MASTER MOLD!
SILVESTRI & GREEN
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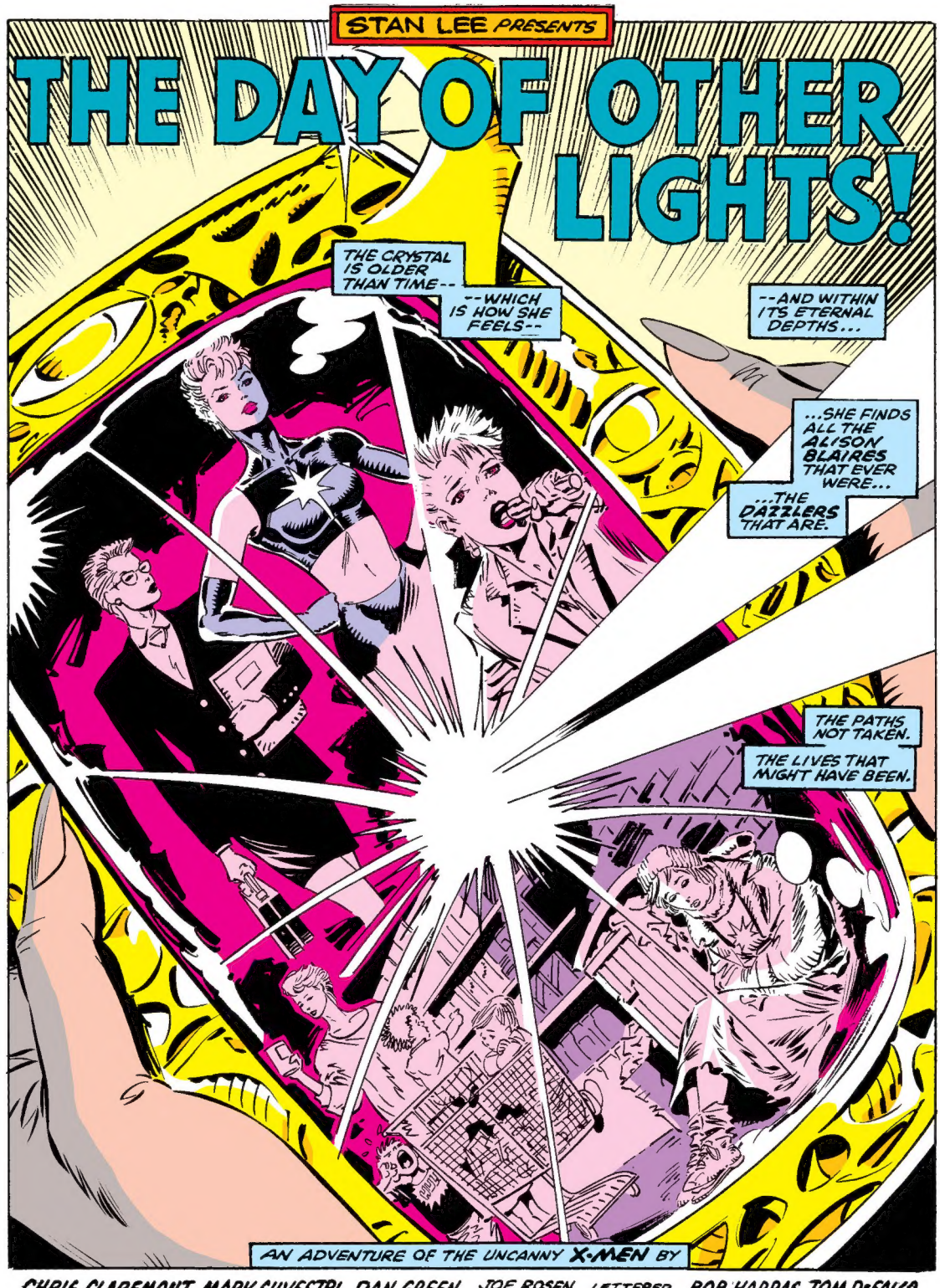

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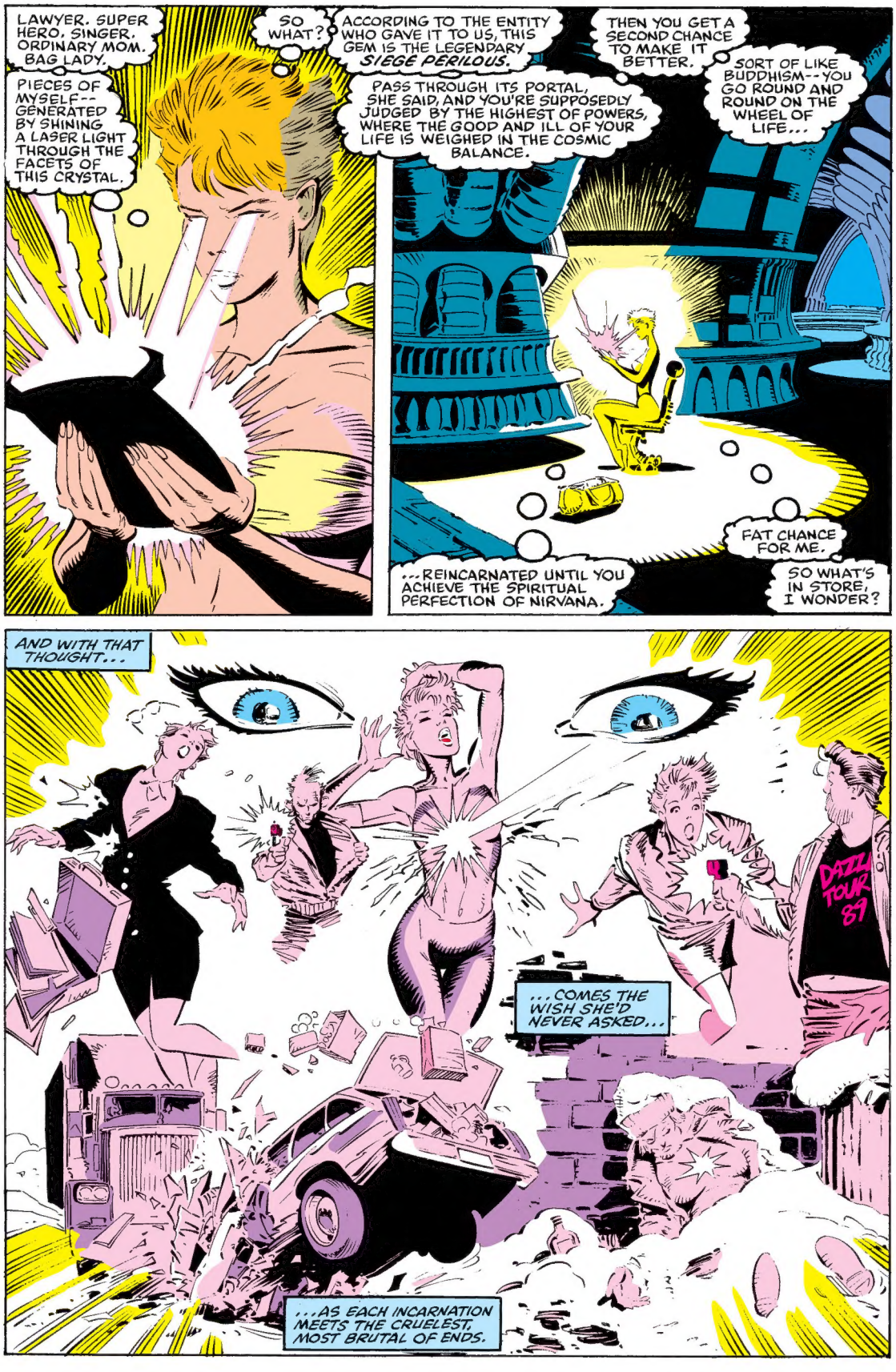
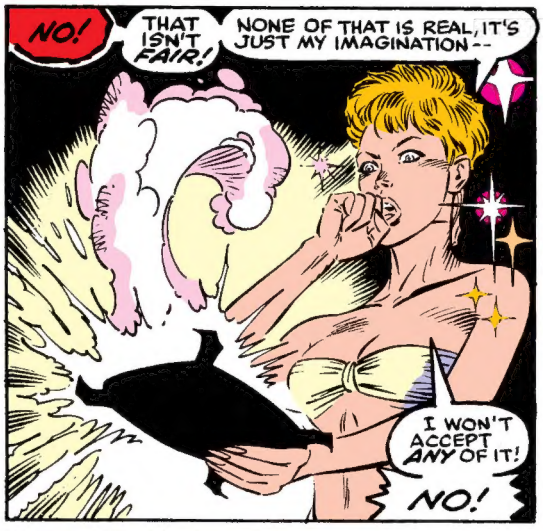
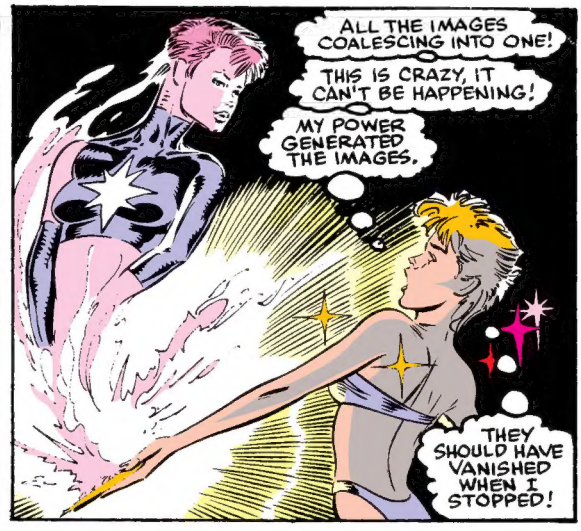
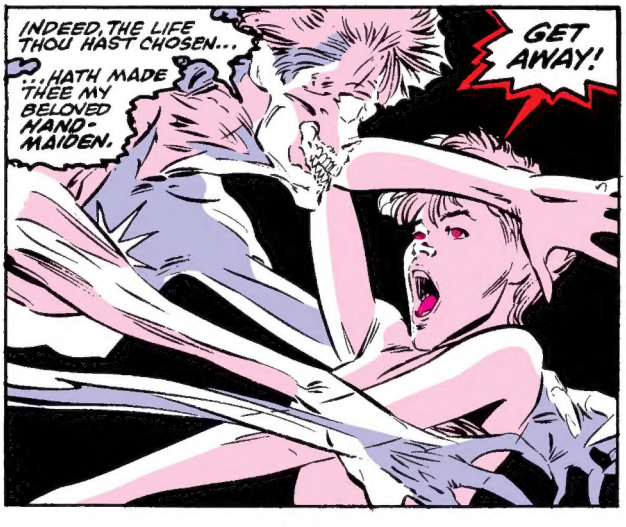

LAWYER. SUPER HERO. SINGER. ORDINARY MOM. BAG LADY.
PIECES OF MYSELF--GENERATED BY SHINING A LASER LIGHT THROUGH THE FACETS OF THIS CRYSTAL.
SO WHAT?
ACCORDING TO THE ENTITY WHO GAVE IT TO US, THIS GEM IS THE LEGENDARY SIEGE PERILOUS.
PASS THROUGH ITS PORTAL, SHE SAID, AND YOU'RE SUPPOSEDLY JUDGED BY THE HIGHEST OF POWERS, WHERE THE GOOD AND ILL OF YOUR LIFE IS WEIGHED IN THE COSMIC BALANCE.
THEN YOU GET A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE IT BETTER.
SORT OF LIKE BUDDHISM--YOU GO ROUND AND ROUND ON THE WHEEL OF LIFE...
...REINCARNATED UNTIL YOU ACHIEVE THE SPIRITUAL PERFECTION OF NIRVANA.
FAT CHANCE FOR ME.
SO WHAT'S IN STORE, I WONDER?
AND WITH THAT THOUGHT...
...COMES THE WISH SHE'D NEVER ASKED...
...AS EACH INCARNATION MEETS THE CRUELEST, MOST BRUTAL OF ENDS.
DAZZLE TOUR 89


NO!
THAT ISN'T FAIR!
NONE OF THAT IS REAL, IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION--
I WON'T ACCEPT ANY OF IT!
NO!


ALL THE IMAGES COALESCING INTO ONE!
THIS IS CRAZY, IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
MY POWER GENERATED THE IMAGES.
THEY SHOULD HAVE VANISHED WHEN I STOPPED!

FOOLISH MORTAL, DOST THOU THINK THOU CAN SO EASILY...
...FLEE THY FATE?
NO!

WHY SO AFRAID, ALISON?
DEATH COMES TO ALL, IN TIME.
NOT ME--
--NOT NOW!

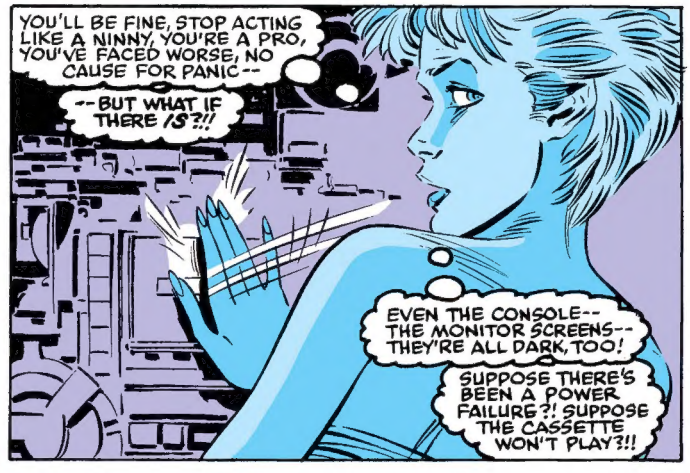

INDEED, THE LIFE THOU HAST CHOSEN...
...HATH MADE THEE MY BELOVED HAND-MAIDEN.
GET AWAY!

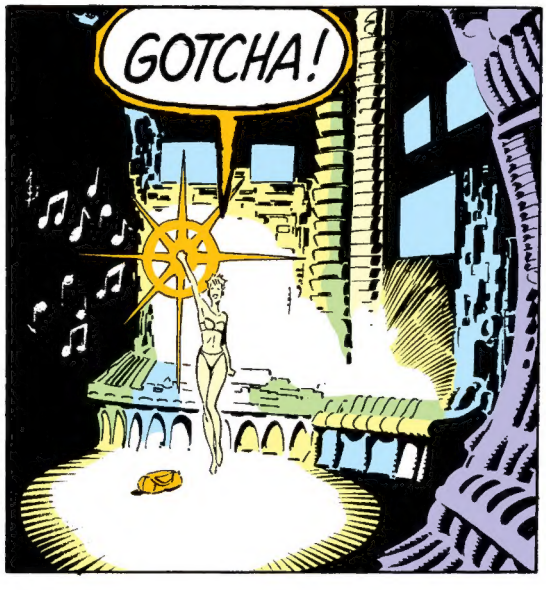
HUH?!!
GONE!
THANK HEAVEN.
I'M OKAY.
I'M SAFE.

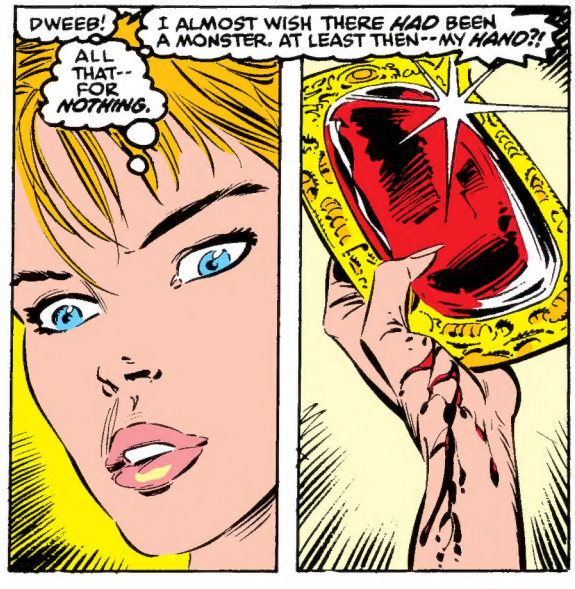
I'M SHAKING... CAN'T STOP.
CAN'T REMEMBER EVER BEING SO SCARED.
AWFULLY DARK.
I HATE THIS COMPLEX. ALWAYS GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
THE FEELING THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE, IN THE SHADOWS...
...WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO POUNCE.

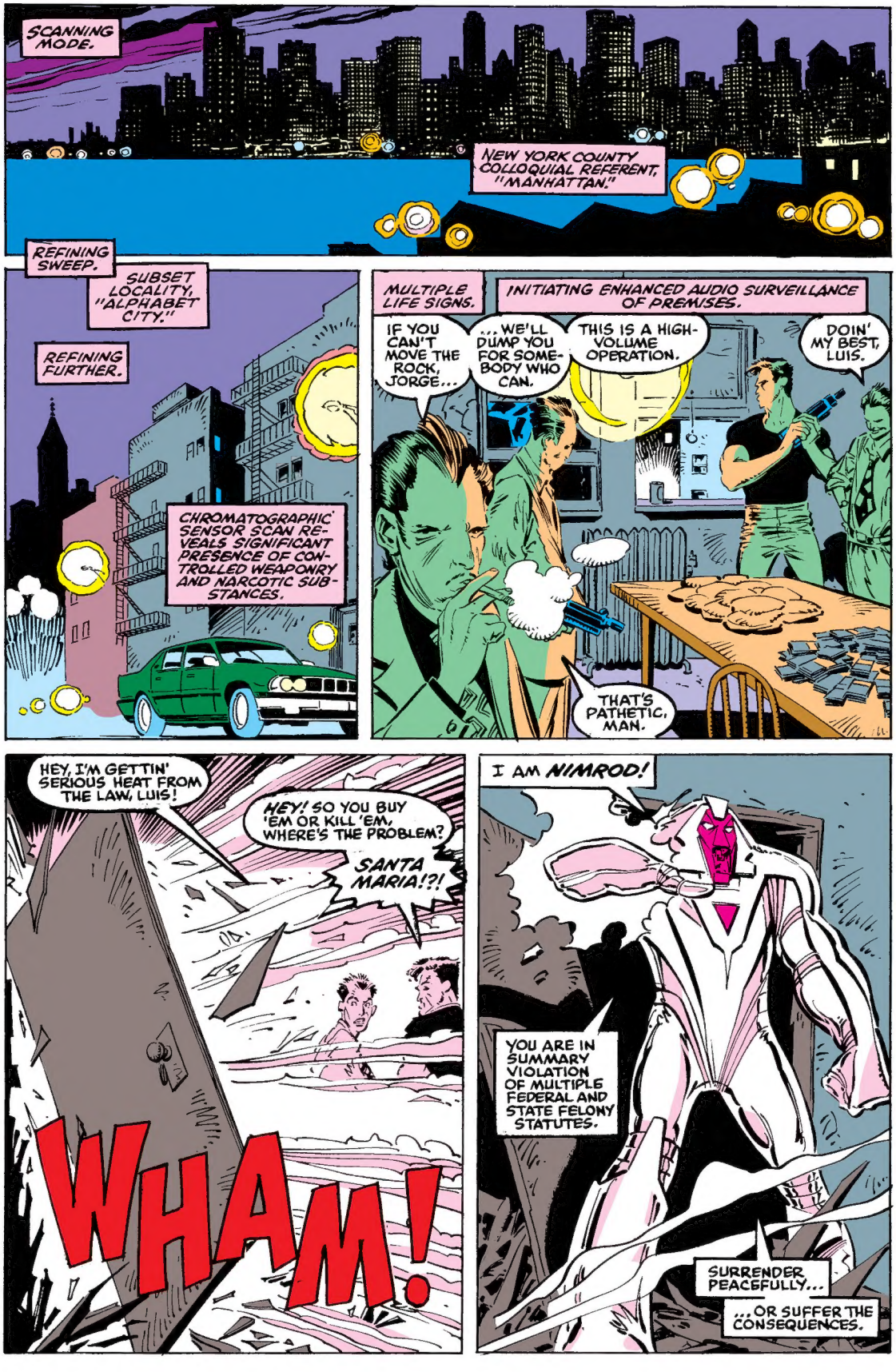
THAT'S SILLY.
WE'VE SEARCHED AND SCANNED EVERY INCH OF THE PLACE. THERE'S NOTHING DOWN HERE.
BUT US CHICKENS.
SNAP OUT OF IT, GIRL.
SEEN TOO MANY SLASHER FLICKS, THAT'S MY PROBLEM.
GOT TO GENERATE SOME LIGHT, THAT'LL MAKE THINGS BETTER--
--BLAST!

DRAINED OF ENERGY.
NEED A JUMP-START-- NEED SOUND TO TRANSDUCE INTO LIGHT!
U2
RATTLE AND HUM
AUSSIE TAN

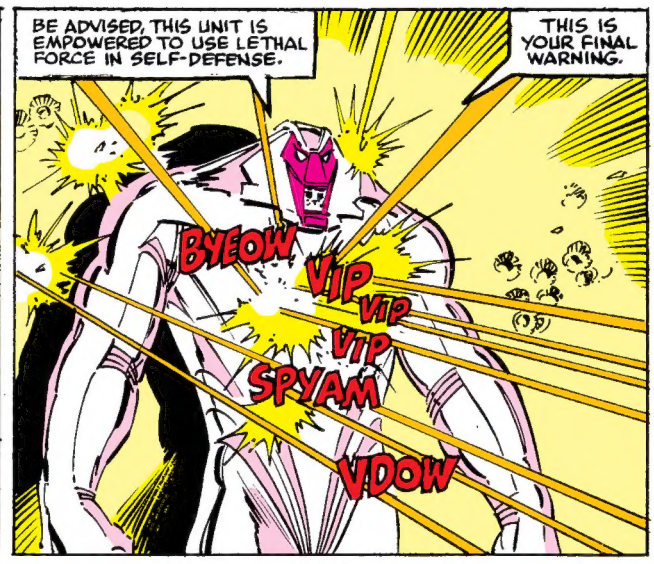

YOU'LL BE FINE, STOP ACTING LIKE A NINNY, YOU'RE A PRO, YOU'VE FACED WORSE, NO CAUSE FOR PANIC--
--BUT WHAT IF THERE IS?!!
EVEN THE CONSOLE-- THE MONITOR SCREENS-- THEY'RE ALL DARK, TOO!
SUPPOSE THERE'S BEEN A POWER FAILURE?! SUPPOSE THE CASSETTE WON'T PLAY?!!

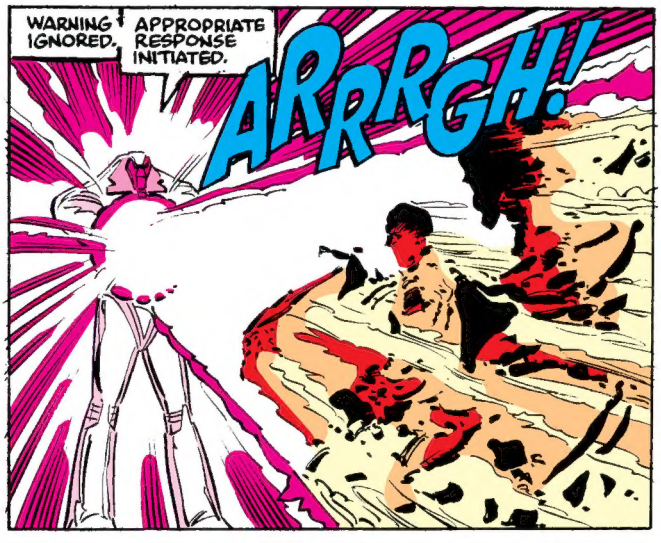

GOTCHA!

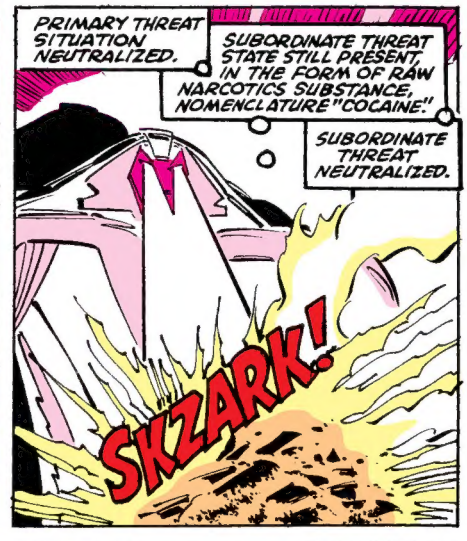

DWEEB!
ALL THAT-- FOR NOTHING.
I ALMOST WISH THERE HAD BEEN A MONSTER. AT LEAST THEN--MY HAND?!

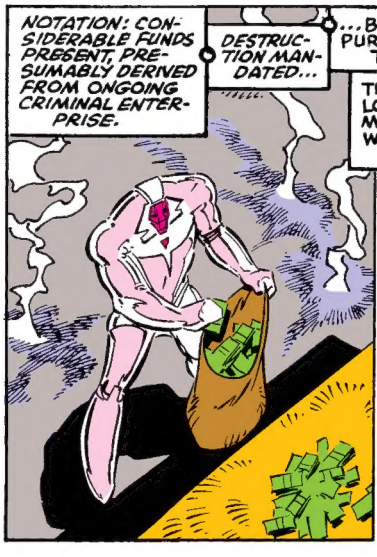

SCANNING MODE.
NEW YORK COUNTY COLLOQUIAL REFERENT, "MANHATTAN."
REFINING SWEEP.
SUBSET LOCALITY, "ALPHABET CITY."
REFINING FURTHER.
CHROMATOGRAPHIC SENSOR SCAN REVEALS SIGNIFICANT PRESENCE OF CONTROLLED WEAPONRY AND NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES.
MULTIPLE LIFE SIGNS.
INITIATING ENHANCED AUDIO SURVEILLANCE OF PREMISES.
IF YOU CAN'T MOVE THE ROCK, JORGE...
...WE'LL DUMP YOU FOR SOMEBODY WHO CAN.
THIS IS A HIGH-VOLUME OPERATION.
DOIN' MY BEST, LUIS.
THAT'S PATHETIC, MAN.
HEY, I'M GETTIN' SERIOUS HEAT FROM THE LAW, LUIS!
HEY! SO YOU BUY 'EM OR KILL 'EM, WHERE'S THE PROBLEM?
SANTA MARIA!?!
WHAM!
I AM NIMROD!
YOU ARE IN SUMMARY VIOLATION OF MULTIPLE FEDERAL AND STATE FELONY STATUTES.
SURRENDER PEACEFULLY...
...OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

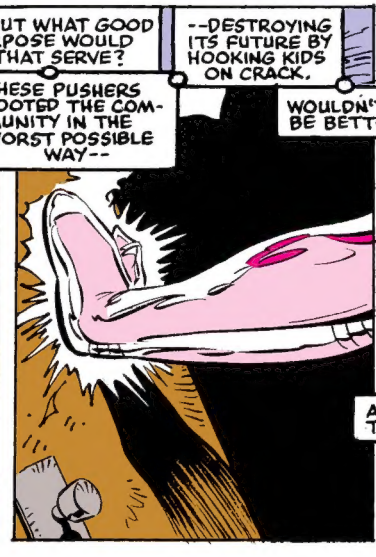
WHAT IS THIS, A JOKE?
SMOKE THIS ROAD-SHOW ROBOCOP!
YOU CARE SO MUCH JORGE, YOU CAN DIE WITH HIM!
LUIS, DON'T!
I HEARD'A HIM, HE MEANS BUSINESS!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

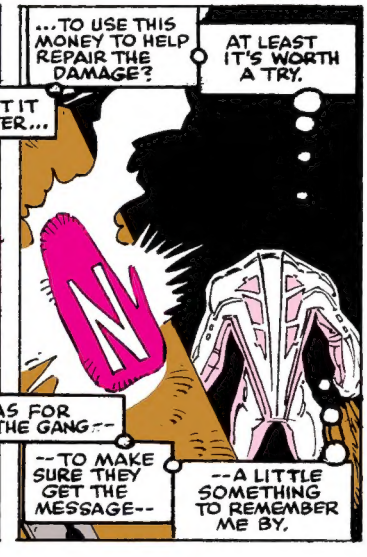

BE ADVISED, THIS UNIT IS EMPOWERED TO USE LETHAL FORCE IN SELF-DEFENSE.
THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING.
BYEOW
VIP
VIP
VTP
SPYAM
VDOW

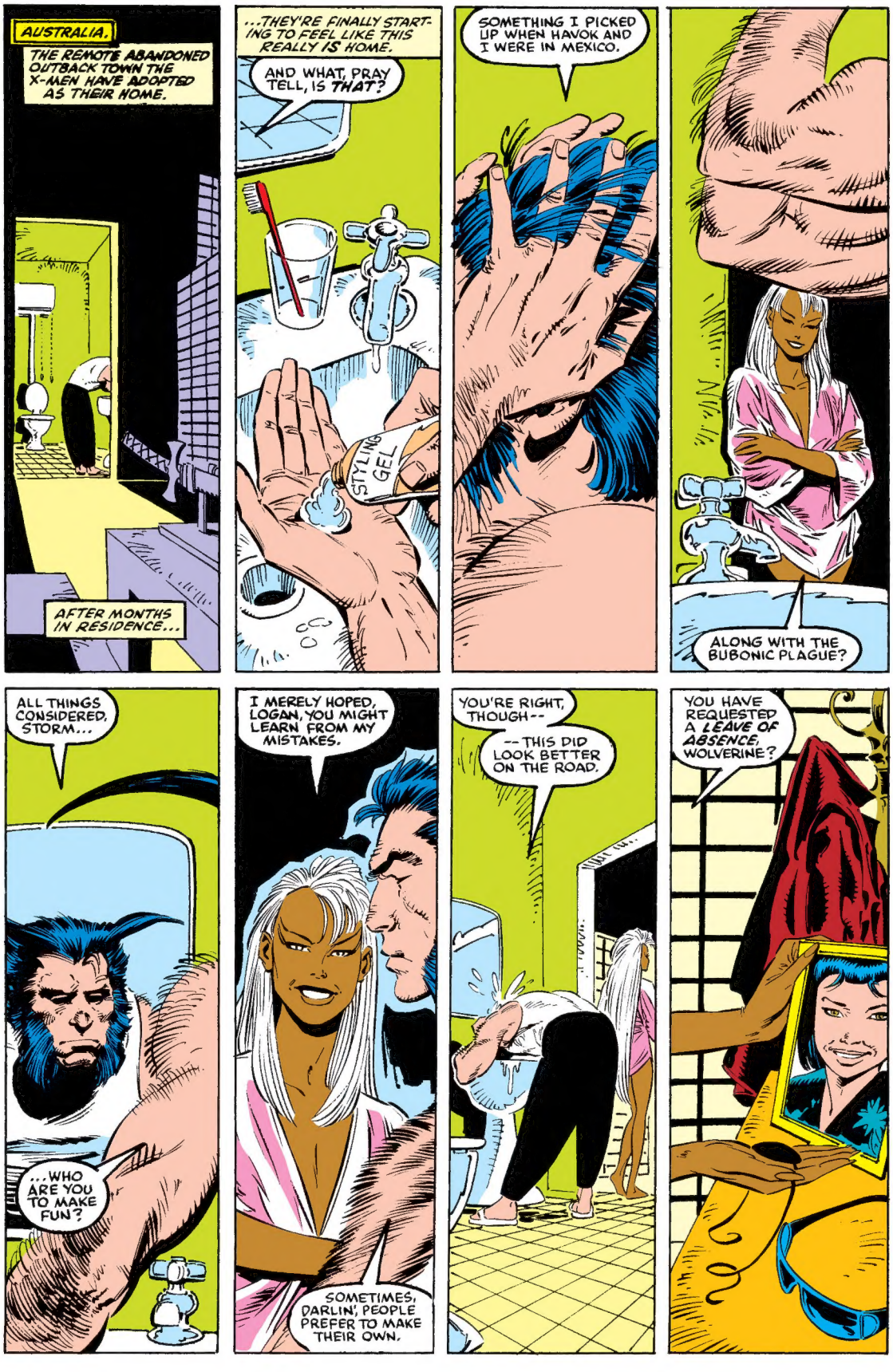

WARNING IGNORED.
APPROPRIATE RESPONSE INITIATED.
ARRRGH!

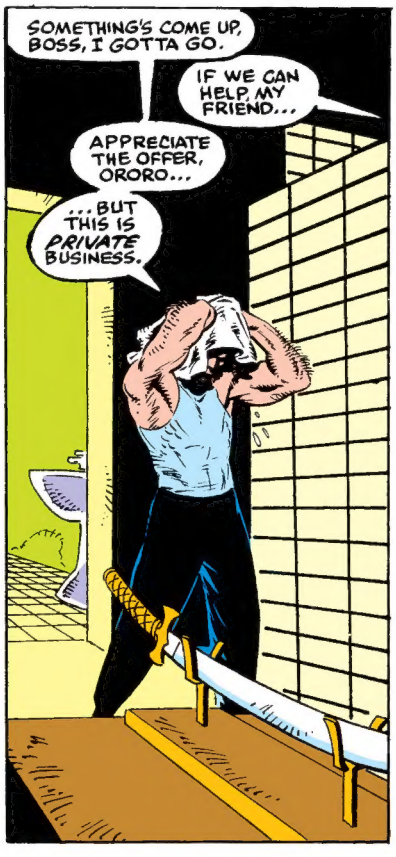

PRIMARY THREAT SITUATION NEUTRALIZED.
SUBORDINATE THREAT STATE STILL PRESENT, IN THE FORM OF RAW NARCOTICS SUBSTANCE, NOMENCLATURE "COCAINE."
SUBORDINATE THREAT NEUTRALIZED.
SKZARK!


NOTATION: CONSIDERABLE FUNDS PRESENT, PRESUMABLY DERIVED FROM ONGOING CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE.
DESTRUCTION MANDATED...


...BUT WHAT GOOD PURPOSE WOULD THAT SERVE?
THESE PUSHERS LOOTED THE COMMUNITY IN THE WORST POSSIBLE WAY--
--DESTROYING ITS FUTURE BY HOOKING KIDS ON CRACK.
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER...


...TO USE THIS MONEY TO HELP REPAIR THE DAMAGE?
AT LEAST IT'S WORTH A TRY.
AS FOR THE GANG--
--TO MAKE SURE THEY GET THE MESSAGE--
--A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY.


AUSTRALIA.
THE REMOTE ABANDONED OUTBACK TOWN THE X-MEN HAVE ADOPTED AS THEIR HOME.
AFTER MONTHS IN RESIDENCE...
...THEY'RE FINALLY STARTING TO FEEL LIKE THIS REALLY IS HOME.
AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, IS THAT?
STYLING GEL
SOMETHING I PICKED UP WHEN HAVOK AND I WERE IN MEXICO.
ALONG WITH THE BUBONIC PLAGUE?
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, STORM...
...WHO ARE YOU TO MAKE FUN?
I MERELY HOPED, LOGAN, YOU MIGHT LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES.
SOMETIMES, DARLIN', PEOPLE PREFER TO MAKE THEIR OWN.
YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH--
--THIS DID LOOK BETTER ON THE ROAD.
YOU HAVE REQUESTED A LEAVE OF ABSENCE, WOLVERINE?


SOMETHING'S COME UP, BOSS, I GOTTA GO.
IF WE CAN HELP, MY FRIEND...
APPRECIATE THE OFFER, ORORO...
...BUT THIS IS *PRIVATE* BUSINESS.

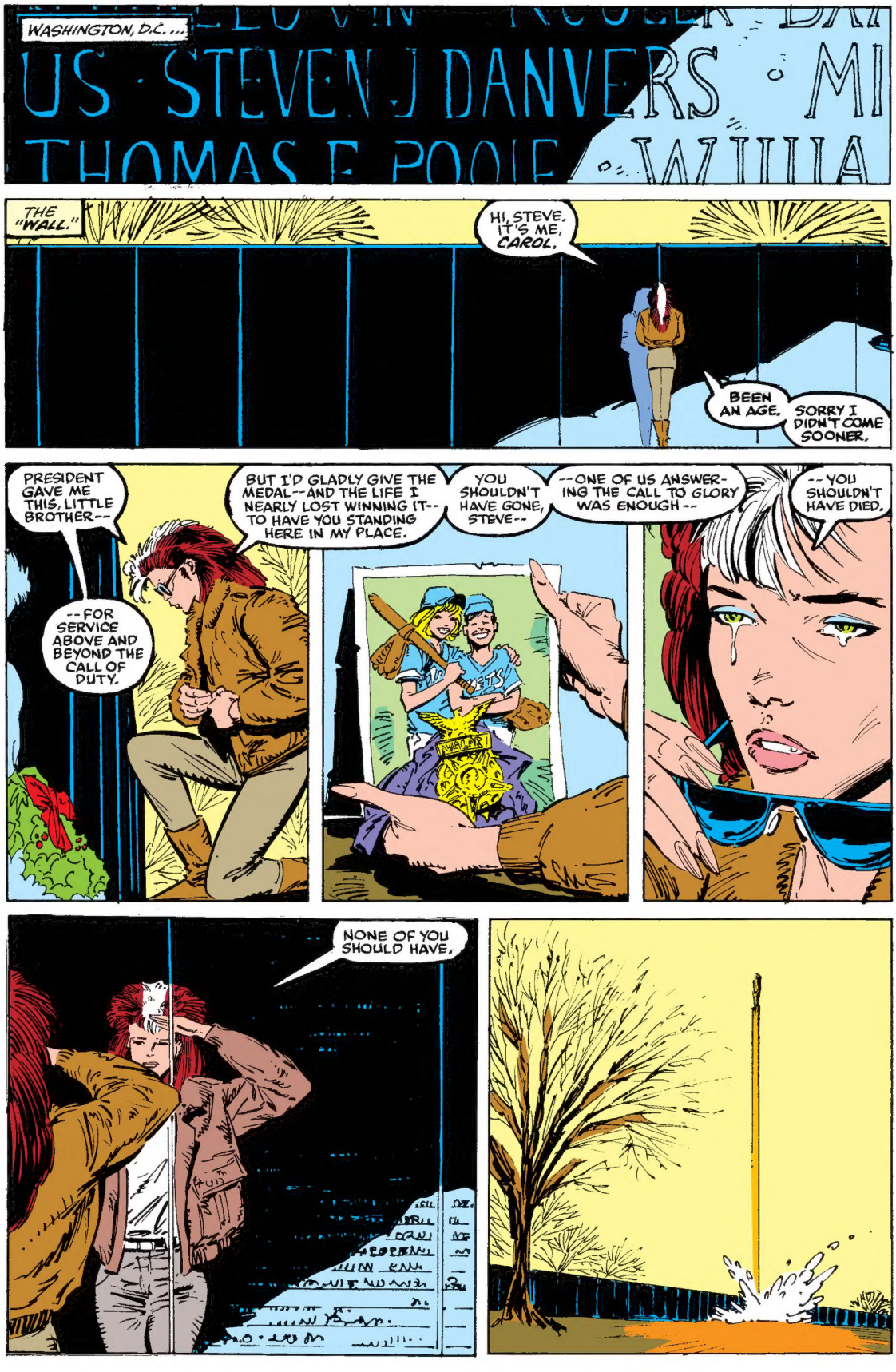
NOW WHO'S FULL O' SURPRISES!
KILLER LOOK, DARLIN'-- JACKET AN' SHADES SUIT YOU BETTER'N ME, YOU'RE WELCOME TO 'EM--
--BUT HARDLY WHAT FOLKS EXPECT OF A "GODDESS."
STORMS, WOLVERINE, HAVE A MYRIAD OF COLORATIONS.
NO LESS THAN PEOPLE.

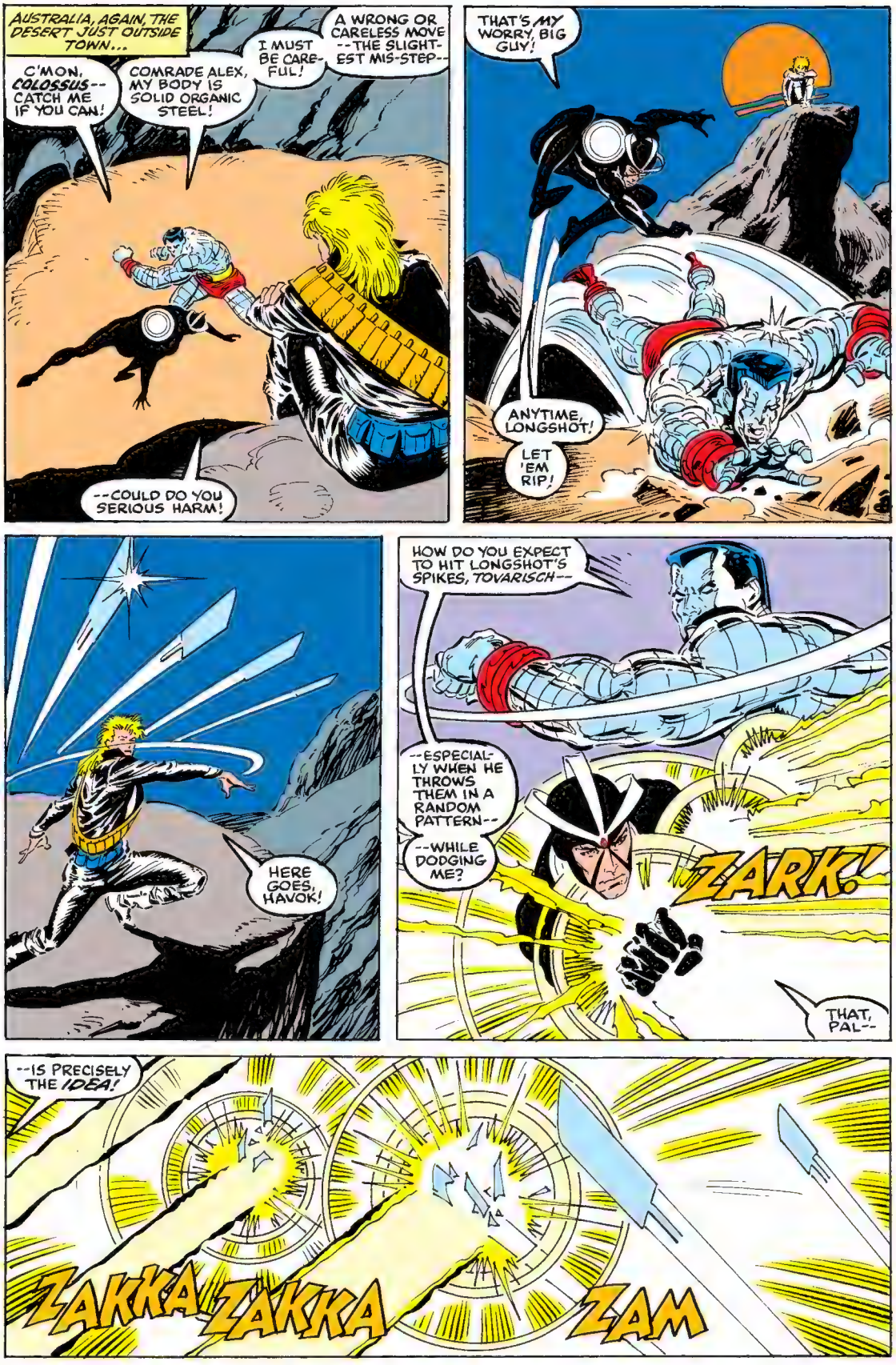
SO LONG AS I REMAIN TRUE TO MYSELF...
...I SEE NO REASON TO APOLOGIZE FOR HOW I APPEAR TO OTHERS.

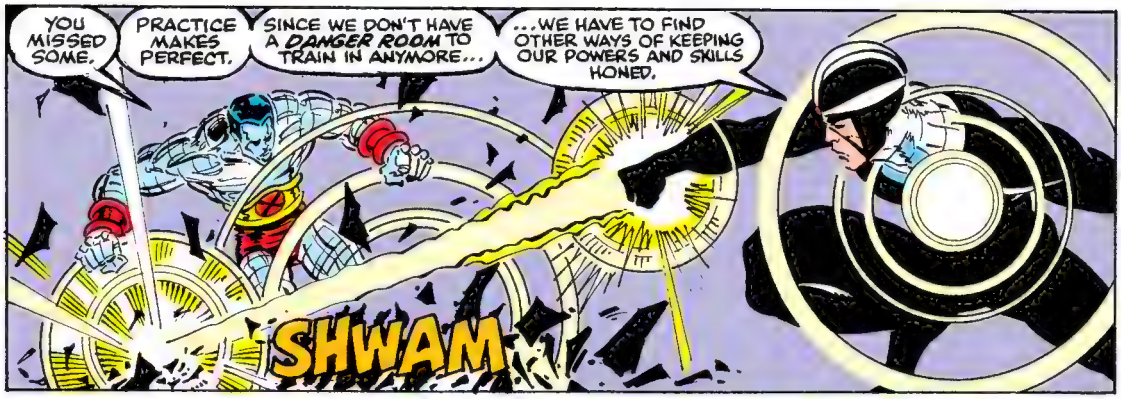
THAT'S AN X-MAN TRAIT, SURE ENOUGH, GOIN' YOUR OWN WAY REGARDLESS, DEVIL TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES.
WE'RE TOO FLAMIN' PRIDEFULLY STUBBORN SOMETIMES FOR OUR OWN GOOD!
YOU NEED NEVER GO ALONE, LOGAN. OR STAND ALONE.
I KNOW.
BUT BY THE SAME TOKEN, MY LIFE'S *BOUND* BY OBLIGATIONS FREELY GIVEN.
"*GIRI*," THE JAPANESE CALL IT. "DUTY," BEIN' AN X-MAN TAUGHT ME THAT.

BEFORE, I WOULDN'T HAVE CARED, ONE WAY OR T'OTHER. I LIVED FOR MYSELF.
THAT'S CHANGED.
WOLVERINE MAY BE A CERTIFIABLE CRAZY. BUT HE'S ALSO A *MAN* WHO STANDS BY HIS WORD.

I UNDERSTAND-- HOW LONG WILL YOU BE GONE.
EXPECT ME WHEN I'M BACK.
AND THAT WILL BE...?
WHEN THE JOB'S *DONE*.
SNIKT!


WASHINGTON, D.C. ...
US · STEVEN J DANVERS · MI
THOMAS E POOLE · WILLIA
THE "WALL."
HI, STEVE. IT'S ME, CAROL.
BEEN AN AGE.
SORRY I DIDN'T COME SOONER.
PRESIDENT GAVE ME THIS, LITTLE BROTHER--
--FOR SERVICE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.
BUT I'D GLADLY GIVE THE MEDAL--AND THE LIFE I NEARLY LOST WINNING IT--TO HAVE YOU STANDING HERE IN MY PLACE.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE, STEVE--
--ONE OF US ANSWERING THE CALL TO GLORY WAS ENOUGH --
--YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED.
NONE OF YOU SHOULD HAVE.

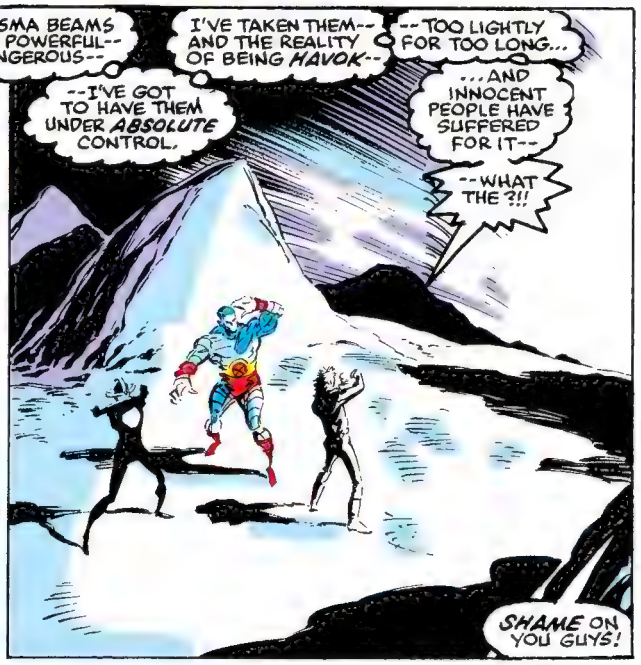

AUSTRALIA, AGAIN, THE DESERT JUST OUTSIDE TOWN...
C'MON, COLOSSUS-- CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
COMRADE ALEX, MY BODY IS SOLID ORGANIC STEEL!
I MUST BE CAREFUL!
A WRONG OR CARELESS MOVE --THE SLIGHTEST MIS-STEP--
--COULD DO YOU SERIOUS HARM!
THAT'S MY WORRY, BIG GUY!
ANYTIME, LONGSHOT!
LET 'EM RIP!
HERE GOES, HAVOK!
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO HIT LONGSHOT'S SPIKES, TOVARISCH--
--ESPECIALLY WHEN HE THROWS THEM IN A RANDOM PATTERN--
--WHILE DODGING ME?
ZARK!
THAT, PAL--
--IS PRECISELY THE IDEA!
ZAKKA ZAKKA
ZAM

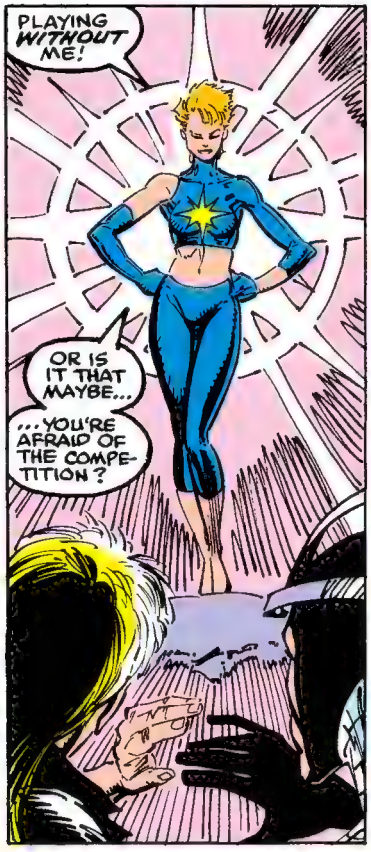

YOU MISSED SOME.
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT.
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE A DANGER ROOM TO TRAIN IN ANYMORE...
...WE HAVE TO FIND OTHER WAYS OF KEEPING OUR POWERS AND SKILLS HONED.
SHWAM

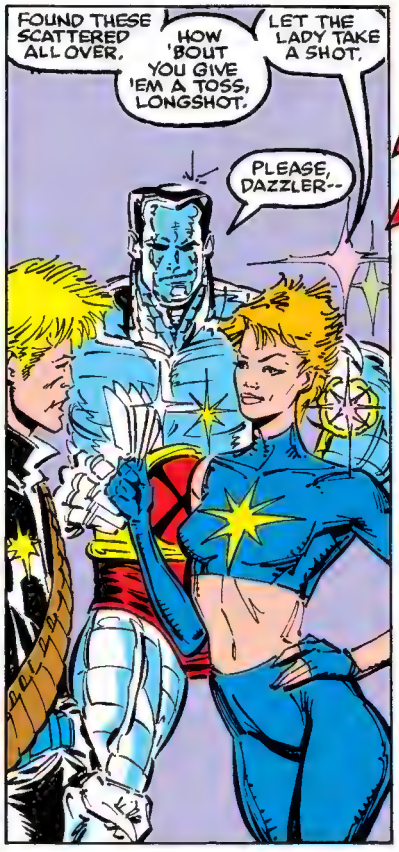
HAVOK, YOU STRUCK ME--
--YOUR PLASMA BOLT IS RICOCHETING--
SKYARK

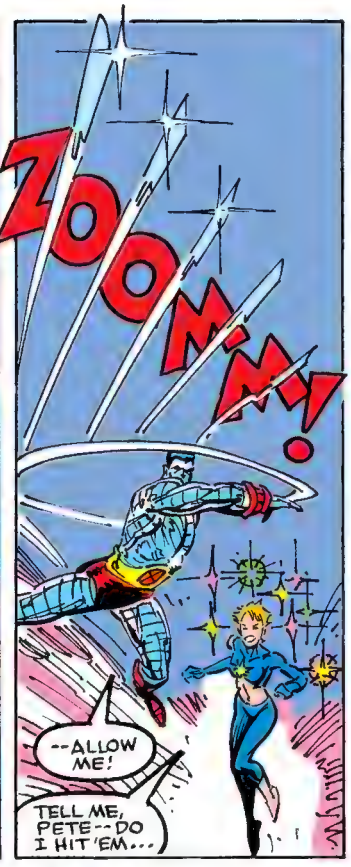
--STRAIGHT FOR LONG-SHOT!
WOW!
SKAKOW!
I GUESS IT WAS MY WILD LUCK THAT MADE ME MOVE...
...RIGHT WHEN ALEX FIRED.
GOOD THING I FOLLOWED THAT INSTINCT!

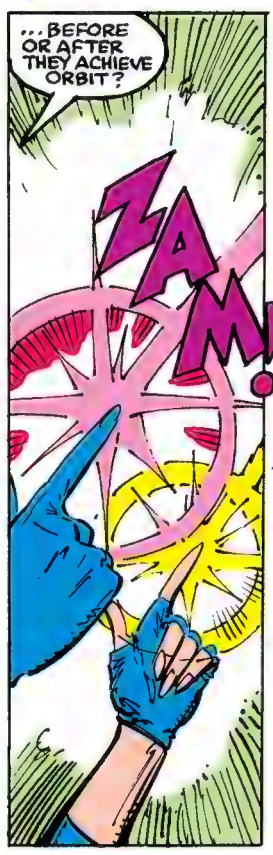
BRILLIANT, BOY.
YOU NEARLY ASHED A TEAM-MATE.
BUT THAT'S WHY I'M OUT HERE.
MY PLASMA BEAMS ARE SO POWERFUL-- AND DANGEROUS--
--I'VE GOT TO HAVE THEM UNDER ABSOLUTE CONTROL.

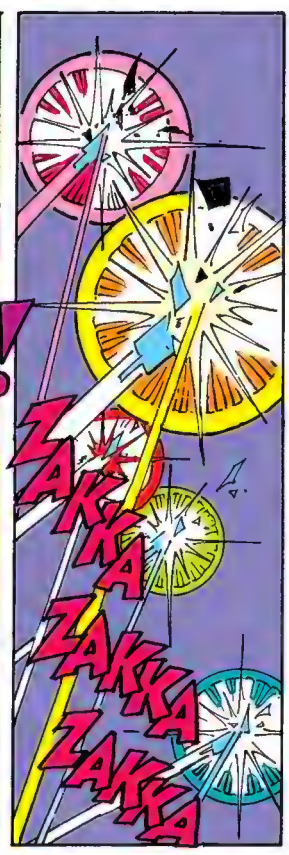

I'VE TAKEN THEM-- AND THE REALITY OF BEING HAVOK--
--TOO LIGHTLY FOR TOO LONG...
...AND INNOCENT PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED FOR IT--
--WHAT THE ?!!
SHAME ON YOU GUYS!

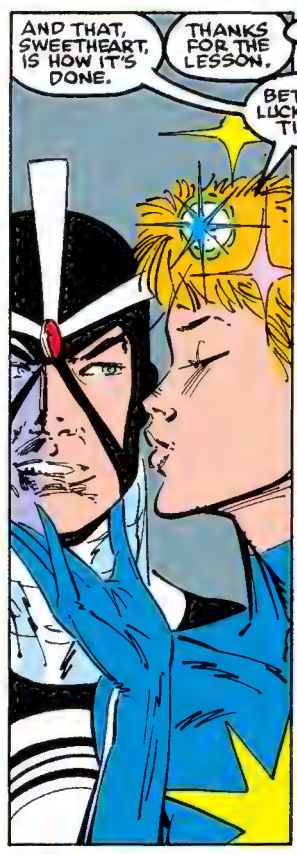

PLAYING WITHOUT ME!
OR IS IT THAT MAYBE...
...YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE COMPETITION?

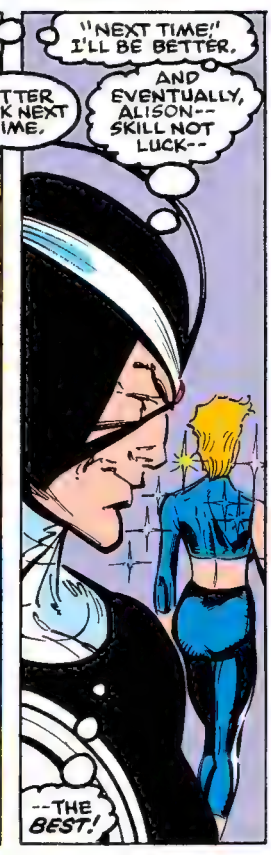

FOUND THESE SCATTERED ALL OVER.
HOW 'BOUT YOU GIVE 'EM A TOSS, LONGSHOT.
LET THE LADY TAKE A SHOT.
PLEASE, DAZZLER--


ZOOM-M!
--ALLOW ME!
TELL ME, PETE--DO I HIT 'EM...


...BEFORE OR AFTER THEY ACHIEVE ORBIT?
ZAM!


ZAKKA ZAKKA ZAKKA


AND THAT, SWEETHEART, IS HOW IT'S DONE.
THANKS FOR THE LESSON.
BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME.


"NEXT TIME," I'LL BE BETTER.
AND EVENTUALLY, ALISON--SKILL NOT LUCK--
--THE BEST!

MANHATTAN AGAIN -- THE FIFTH AVENUE MANSION THAT HOUSES THE FASHIONABLY INFAMOUS HELLFIRE CLUB...

SHARON!

CORINNE! REIKO!

IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU BOTH!

"GOOD'S" A WORD THAT DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO APPLY TO YOU, GIRL!

SO HOW DOES IT FEEL, GOING FROM THIS DUMP'S SERVANT'S QUARTERS...

CHECK OUT THIS FUR!

... TO BEING THE WIFE OF A UNITED STATES SENATOR?

GOLLY-GEE, I DUNNO--

--GRIND GRIND GRIND!

--TODAY AN EMBASSY BALL, TOMORROW A WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION--

LIFE IS SO TOUGH.

AIN'T IT, THOUGH.

SOME RING!

IT'S A FAMILY HEIRLOOM.

I TELL YOU TRUE, I NEVER DREAMED I COULD BE SO HAPPY.

BRAVA, GIRL-- YOU DESERVE EVERY MOMENT.

ROBERT STILL LUNCHING WITH MR. SHAW?

HE IS.

GOT A SPARE UNIFORM I CAN BORROW?

WHAT FOR?

YOU'LL SEE, AND SO WILL THE SENATOR!

SEBASTIAN, THERE'S NO SUPPORT IN THE SENATE FOR ANY FURTHER SENTINEL PROJECTS. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP THROWING GOOD MONEY AFTER BAD.

THE PROBLEM, ROBERT, IS THAT EVERY TIME A SENTINEL DETERMINES HOW TO DEAL WITH ITS TARGET MUTANT...

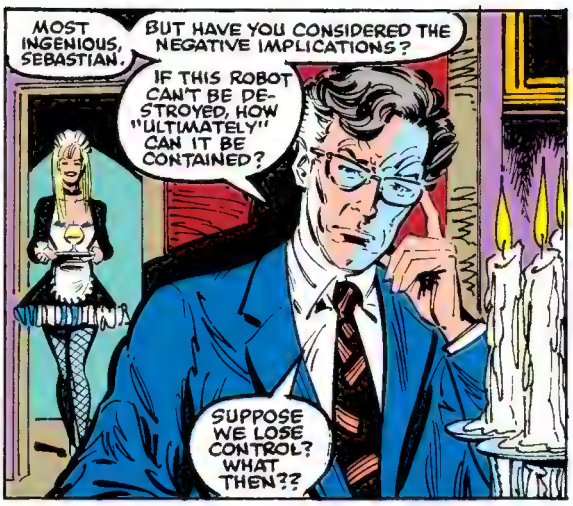
...IT'S INVARIABLY BEEN DESTROYED BY ANOTHER.

THE ROBOTS LEARN, BUT NOT QUICKLY OR EFFECTIVELY ENOUGH TO DO ANY LASTING GOOD.

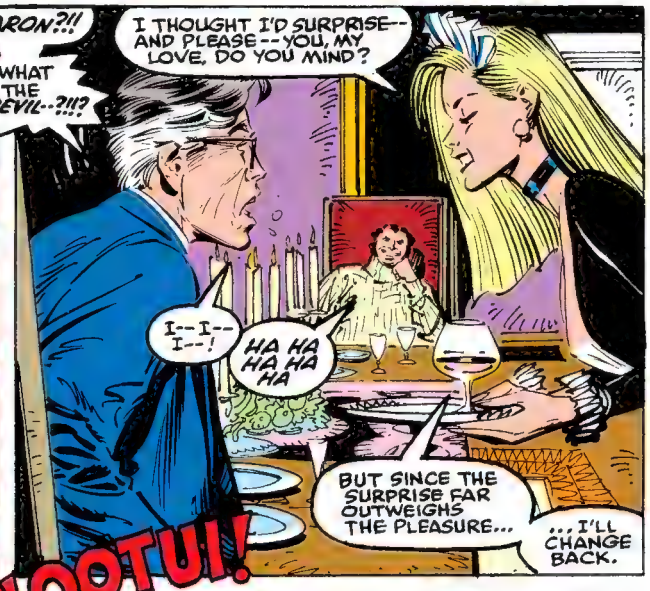
WHAT I PROPOSE IS A HUNTER SYSTEM THAT IS NOT ONLY CAPABLE OF LEARNING FROM ITS MISTAKES AND ADAPTING TO NEW AND UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS...

...BUT WHICH IS ALSO CAPABLE OF RE-CONSTITUTING ITSELF, NO MATTER HOW BADLY DAMAGED.

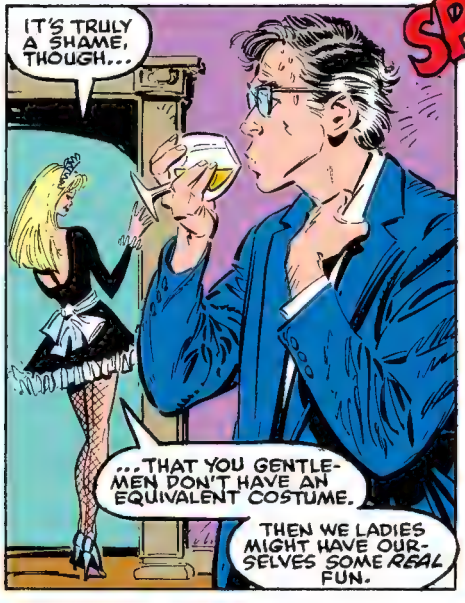
IF EVEN A SINGLE CORE MOLECULE REMAINS INTACT, THE SYSTEM CAN REBUILD ITSELF.
AND SINCE IT IS CONSTANTLY LEARNING AND IMPROVING ITSELF...
...IT CAN NEVER BE BEATEN THE SAME WAY TWICE.
ULTIMATELY, IT WILL--IT MUST--TRIUMPH!


MOST INGENIOUS, SEBASTIAN.
BUT HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS?
IF THIS ROBOT CAN'T BE DESTROYED, HOW "ULTIMATELY" CAN IT BE CONTAINED?
SUPPOSE WE LOSE CONTROL? WHAT THEN??

I'M SORRY, SEBASTIAN. THE RISKS FAR OUTWEIGH ANY POTENTIAL BENE--MY MOTHER'S RING?!?

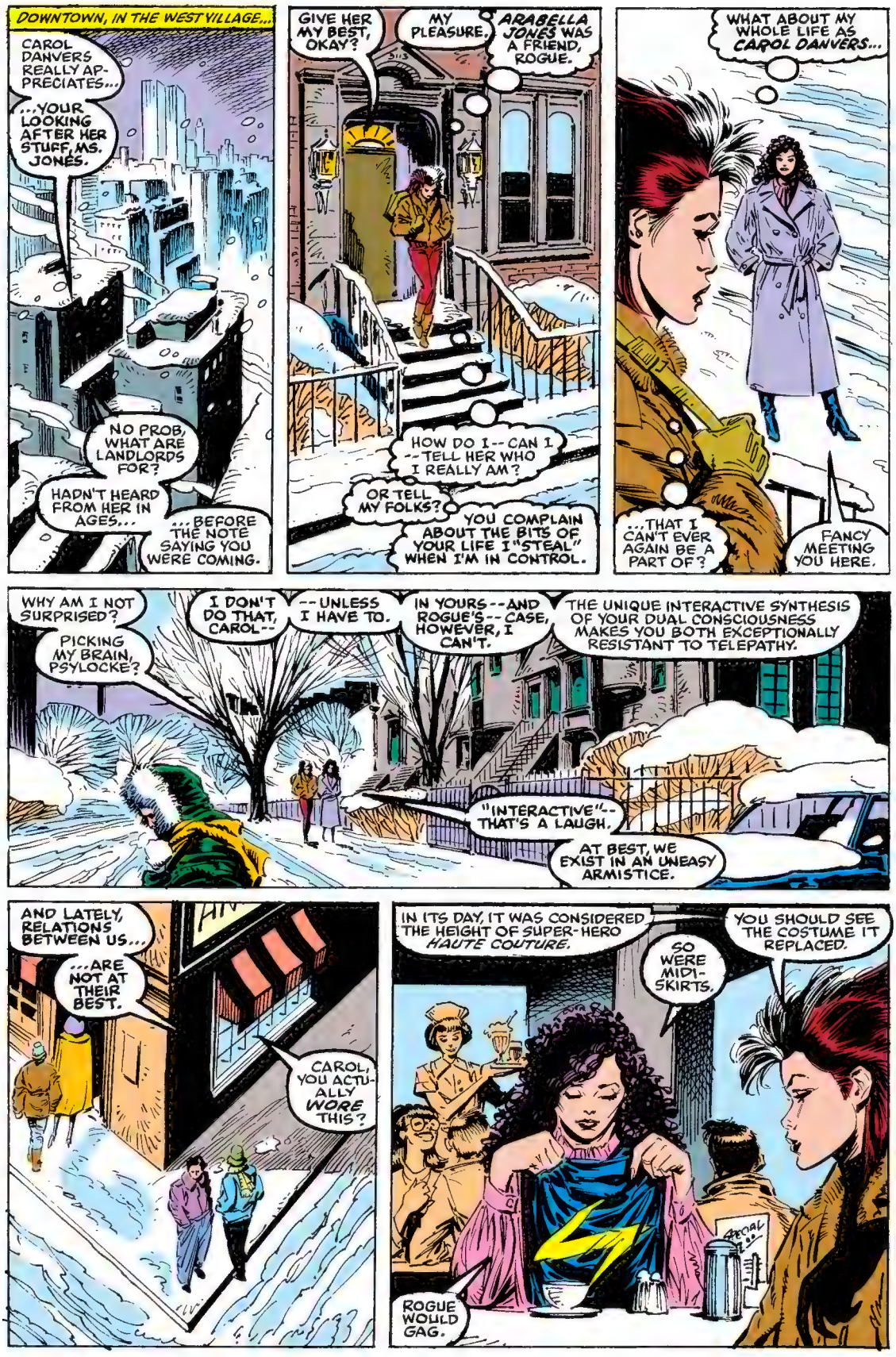

SHARON?!!
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!!?
I THOUGHT I'D SURPRISE--AND PLEASE--YOU, MY LOVE, DO YOU MIND?
I--I--I--!
HA HA HA HA HA
BUT SINCE THE SURPRISE FAR OUTWEIGHS THE PLEASURE...
...I'LL CHANGE BACK.

SPLOOTUI!

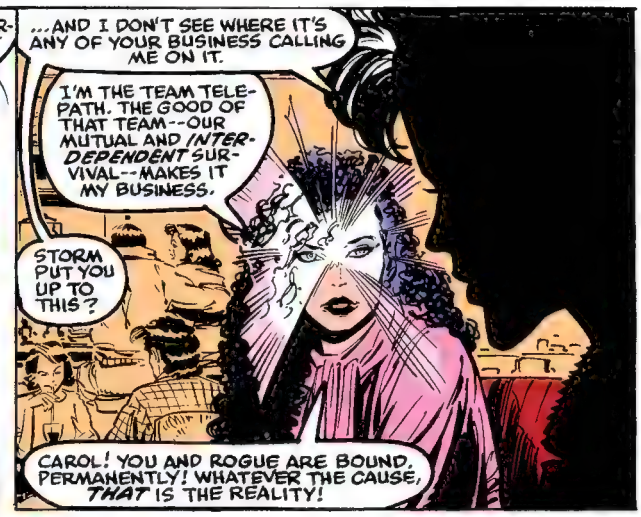

IT'S TRULY A SHAME, THOUGH...
...THAT YOU GENTLEMEN DON'T HAVE AN EQUIVALENT COSTUME.
THEN WE LADIES MIGHT HAVE OURSELVES SOME REAL FUN.

PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU, ROBERT--
--OUR HELLFIRE LADIES ARE FAR MORE THAN MERE ADORNMENTS.
THEY CAN HOLD THEIR OWN WITH ANY MEN.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT IN SHARON'S CASE...
...I WAGER YOU'VE MARRIED A TIGRESS!


DOWNTOWN, IN THE WEST VILLAGE...
CAROL DANVERS REALLY APPRECIATES...
...YOUR LOOKING AFTER HER STUFF, MS. JONES.
NO PROB, WHAT ARE LANDLORDS FOR?
HADN'T HEARD FROM HER IN AGES...
...BEFORE THE NOTE SAYING YOU WERE COMING.
GIVE HER MY BEST, OKAY?
MY PLEASURE.
ARABELLA JONES WAS A FRIEND, ROGUE.
HOW DO I -- CAN I -- TELL HER WHO I REALLY AM?
OR TELL MY FOLKS?
YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT THE BITS OF YOUR LIFE I "STEAL" WHEN I'M IN CONTROL.
WHAT ABOUT MY WHOLE LIFE AS CAROL DANVERS...
...THAT I CAN'T EVER AGAIN BE A PART OF?
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
PICKING MY BRAIN, PSYLOCKE?
I DON'T DO THAT, CAROL--
-- UNLESS I HAVE TO.
IN YOURS -- AND ROGUE'S -- CASE, HOWEVER, I CAN'T.
THE UNIQUE INTERACTIVE SYNTHESIS OF YOUR DUAL CONSCIOUSNESS MAKES YOU BOTH EXCEPTIONALLY RESISTANT TO TELEPATHY.
"INTERACTIVE"-- THAT'S A LAUGH.
AT BEST, WE EXIST IN AN UNEASY ARMISTICE.
AND LATELY, RELATIONS BETWEEN US...
...ARE NOT AT THEIR BEST.
CAROL, YOU ACTUALLY WORE THIS?
IN ITS DAY, IT WAS CONSIDERED THE HEIGHT OF SUPER-HERO HAUTE COUTURE.
SO WERE MIDI-SKIRTS.
YOU SHOULD SEE THE COSTUME IT REPLACED.
ROGUE WOULD GAG.

ROGUE ISN'T WEARING IT, ROGUE WON'T BE WEARING IT, THAT'S A MEMENTO OF MY LIFE. I DON'T SEE WHERE SHE MATTERS IN THE EQUATION.
IT'S HER BODY, CAROL.
IT ISN'T MY FAULT I'M STUCK HERE, BETTS...

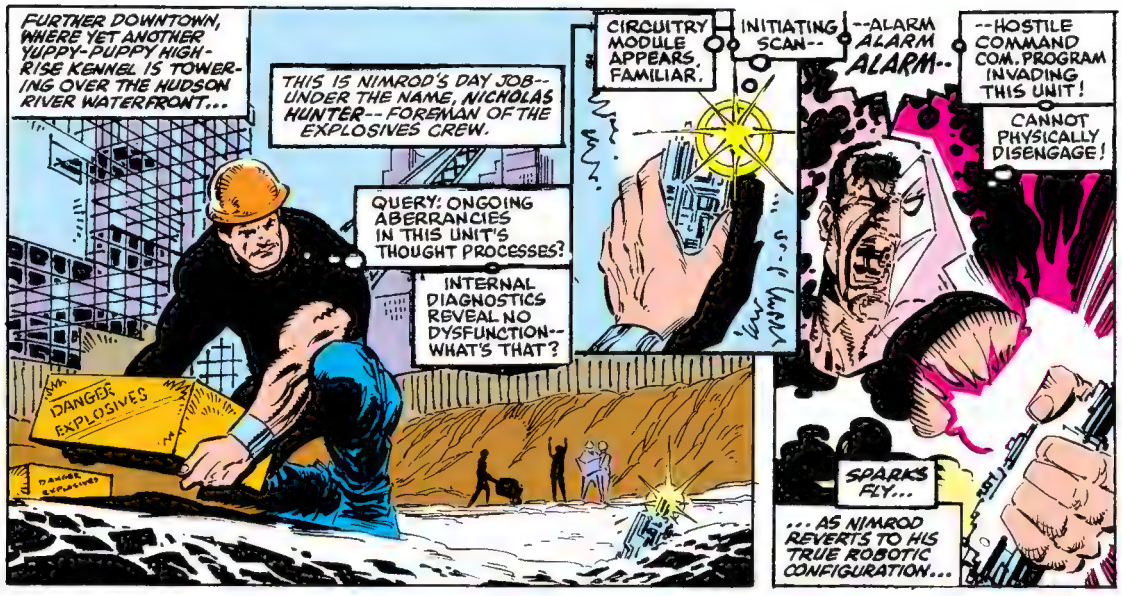

...AND I DON'T SEE WHERE IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS CALLING ME ON IT.
I'M THE TEAM TELEPATH. THE GOOD OF THAT TEAM--OUR MUTUAL AND INTERDEPENDENT SURVIVAL--MAKES IT MY BUSINESS.
STORM PUT YOU UP TO THIS?
CAROL! YOU AND ROGUE ARE BOUND, PERMANENTLY! WHATEVER THE CAUSE, THAT IS THE REALITY!

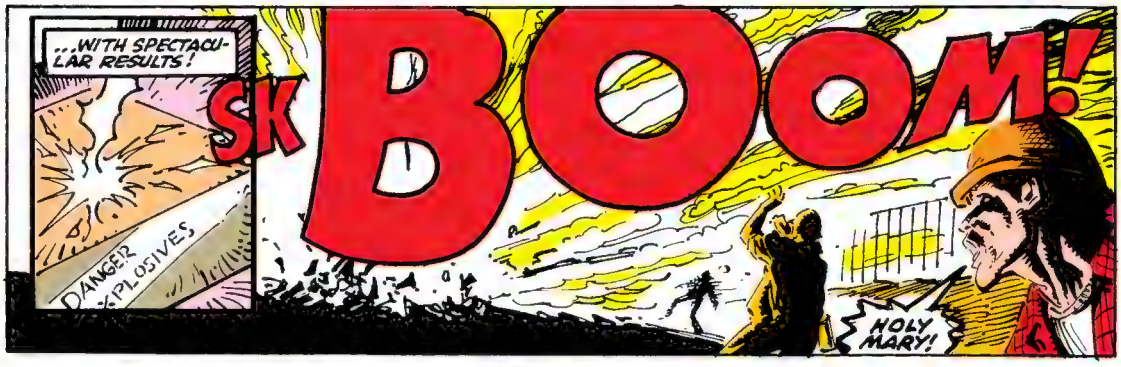
ROGUE'S A CHILD--FROM HER, WE EXPECTED THIS. BUT WHY THE DEVIL ARE YOU BEING SO DIFFICULT?!
KNOW WHAT I WISH?
THAT I COULD CUT A DEAL WITH HER...
...TO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL FOR A YEAR, JUST A YEAR.

THEN, I'D FINAGLE MY WAY ONTO THE RED SOX.
I'D COVER CENTER FIELD LIKE NOBODY BORN AND HIT THE BALL SO HARD, SO WELL...
...THE YANKEES'D BE BLASTED TO DUST!
A YEAR--TO WIN THE PENNANT AND WORLD SERIES FOR FENWAY!
NEVER HAPPEN. PROBABLY BE DISQUALIFIED.
YOU COULD ASK.
BECAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN?
BECAUSE I'M A MUTANT.
PEOPLE'D CLAIM MY POWERS WOULD GIVE ME AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE. AND--PEOPLE'D BE RIGHT.

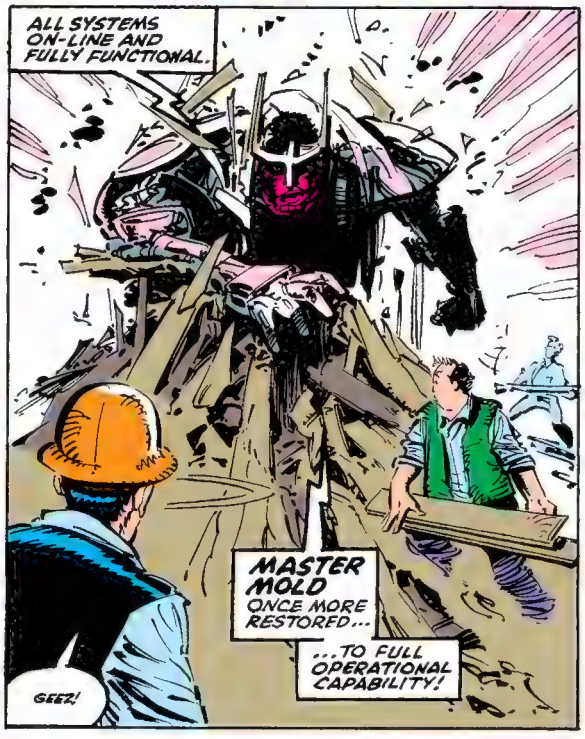
TIMES LIKE THIS, IT FEELS LIKE WE ENDURE ALL THE GRIEF THERE IS...
...BUT WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO ENJOY ANY OF THE FUN.
PERHAPS THAT IS THE PRICE WE PAY FOR BEING WHO AND WHAT WE ARE?

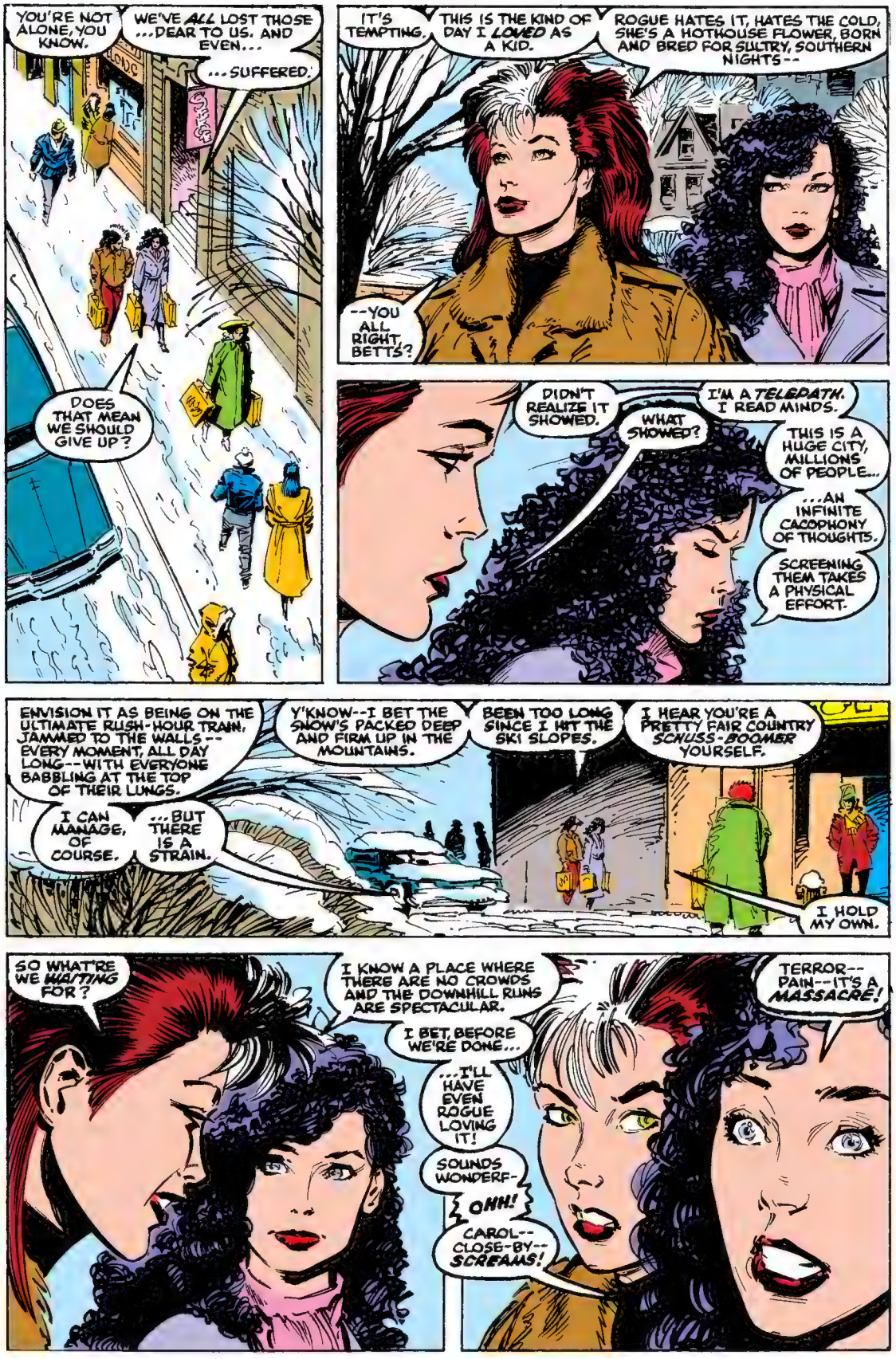
PERHAPS THAT ISN'T ENOUGH.

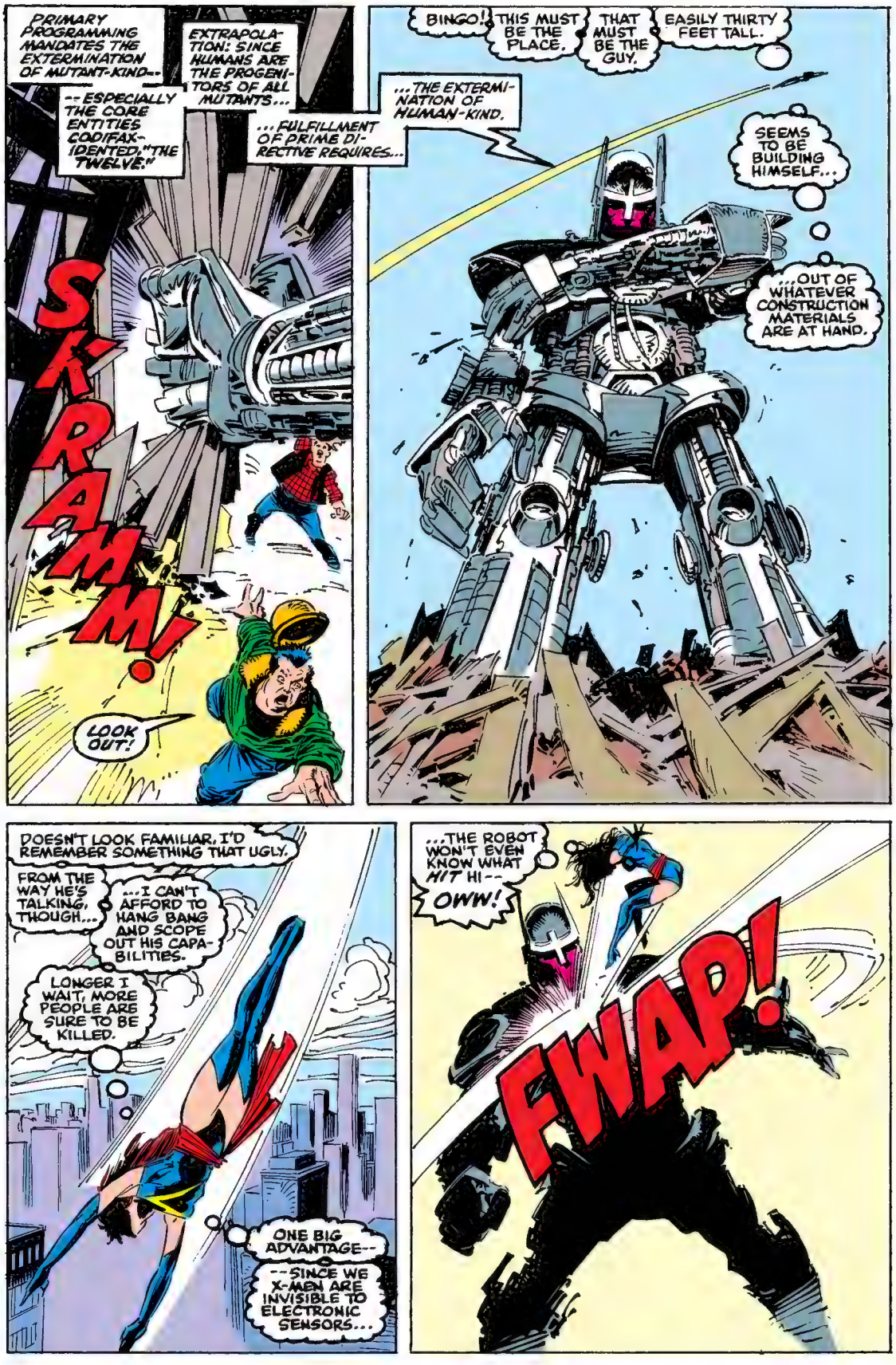

FURTHER DOWNTOWN, WHERE YET ANOTHER YUPPY-PUPPY HIGH-RISE KENNEL IS TOWERING OVER THE HUDSON RIVER WATERFRONT...
THIS IS NIMROD'S DAY JOB-- UNDER THE NAME, NICHOLAS HUNTER-- FOREMAN OF THE EXPLOSIVES CREW.
QUERY: ONGOING ABERRANCIES IN THIS UNIT'S THOUGHT PROCESSES?
INTERNAL DIAGNOSTICS REVEAL NO DYSFUNCTION-- WHAT'S THAT?
DANGER EXPLOSIVES
CIRCUITRY MODULE APPEARS FAMILIAR.
INITIATING SCAN--
--ALARM ALARM ALARM--
--HOSTILE COMMAND COM. PROGRAM INVADING THIS UNIT!
CANNOT PHYSICALLY DISENGAGE!
SPARKS FLY...
...AS NIMROD REVERTS TO HIS TRUE ROBOTIC CONFIGURATION...

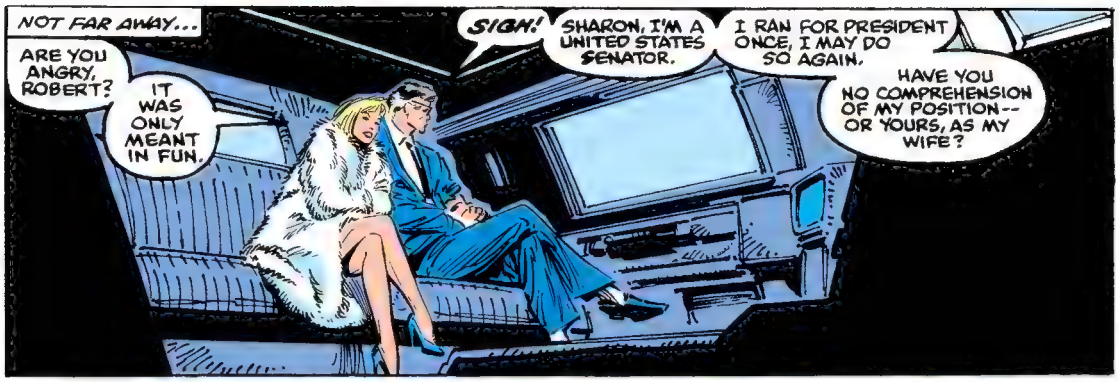

...WITH SPECTACULAR RESULTS!
SK
BOOM!
DANGER EXPLOSIVES
HOLY MARY!

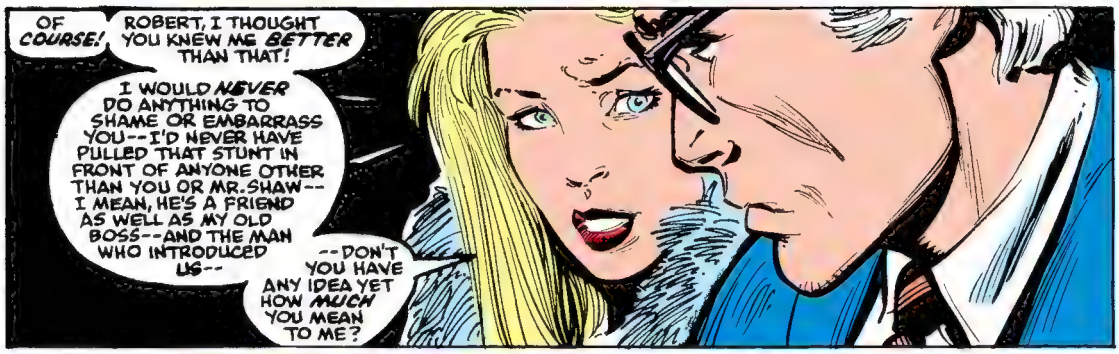
NICK WAS OVER THERE!
GET A CREW! AN' PUT INNA CALL TO E.M.S. FOR AN AMBULANCE!
SHADDAP AN' DIG, RUGGIERO!
WE GOTTA MAKE SURE!
WHY BOTHER? NOBODY COULD'A SURVIVED THAT.

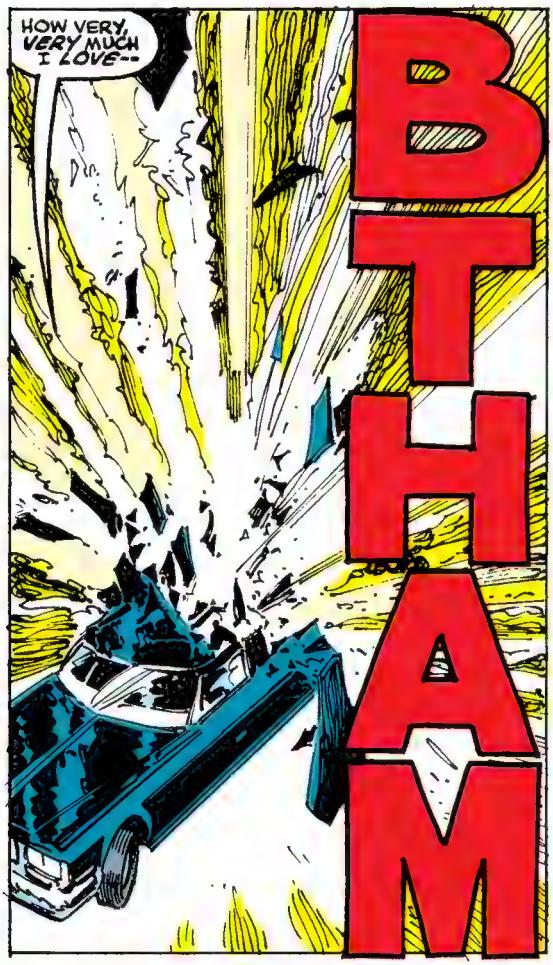

ALL SYSTEMS ON-LINE AND FULLY FUNCTIONAL.
MASTER MOLD ONCE MORE RESTORED...
...TO FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY!
GEEZ!


YOU'RE NOT ALONE, YOU KNOW.
WE'VE ALL LOST THOSE ...DEAR TO US. AND EVEN...
...SUFFERED.
DOES THAT MEAN WE SHOULD GIVE UP?
IT'S TEMPTING.
THIS IS THE KIND OF DAY I LOVED AS A KID.
ROGUE HATES IT, HATES THE COLD, SHE'S A HOTHOUSE FLOWER, BORN AND BRED FOR SULTRY, SOUTHERN NIGHTS--
--YOU ALL RIGHT, BETTS?
DIDN'T REALIZE IT SHOWED.
WHAT SHOWED?
I'M A TELEPATH. I READ MINDS.
THIS IS A HUGE CITY, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE...
...AN INFINITE CACOPHONY OF THOUGHTS.
SCREENING THEM TAKES A PHYSICAL EFFORT.
ENVISION IT AS BEING ON THE ULTIMATE RUSH-HOUR TRAIN, JAMMED TO THE WALLS--EVERY MOMENT, ALL DAY LONG--WITH EVERYONE BABBLING AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS.
I CAN MANAGE, OF COURSE.
...BUT THERE IS A STRAIN.
Y'KNOW--I BET THE SNOW'S PACKED DEEP AND FIRM UP IN THE MOUNTAINS.
BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I HIT THE SKI SLOPES.
I HEAR YOU'RE A PRETTY FAIR COUNTRY SCHUSS-BOOMER YOURSELF.
I HOLD MY OWN.
SO WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?
I KNOW A PLACE WHERE THERE ARE NO CROWDS AND THE DOWNHILL RUNS ARE SPECTACULAR.
I BET, BEFORE WE'RE DONE...
...I'LL HAVE EVEN ROGUE LOVING IT!
SOUNDS WONDERF-
OHH!
CAROL--CLOSE-BY--SCREAMS!
TERROR--PAIN--IT'S A MASSACRE!

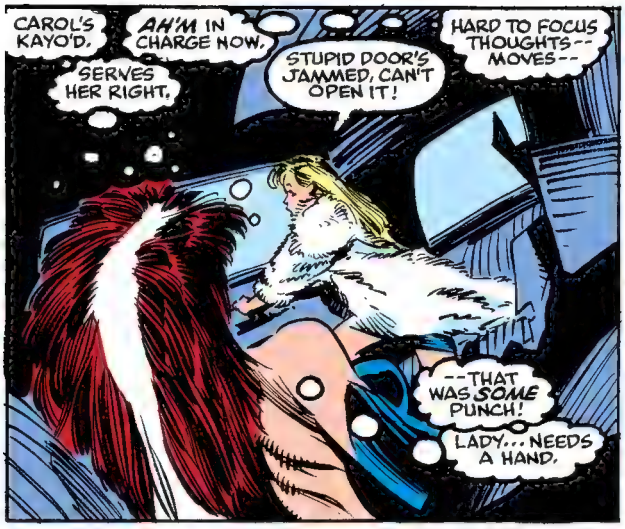

PRIMARY PROGRAMMING MANDATES THE EXTERMINATION OF MUTANT-KIND--
--ESPECIALLY THE CORE ENTITIES CODIFAX-IDENTED, "THE TWELVE."
EXTRAPOLATION: SINCE HUMANS ARE THE PROGENITORS OF ALL MUTANTS...
...FULFILLMENT OF PRIME DIRECTIVE REQUIRES...
SKRAMM!
LOOK OUT!
BINGO!
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.
THAT MUST BE THE GUY.
EASILY THIRTY FEET TALL.
...THE EXTERMINATION OF HUMAN-KIND.
SEEMS TO BE BUILDING HIMSELF...
...OUT OF WHATEVER CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ARE AT HAND.
DOESN'T LOOK FAMILIAR, I'D REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT UGLY.
FROM THE WAY HE'S TALKING, THOUGH...
...I CAN'T AFFORD TO HANG BANG AND SCOPE OUT HIS CAPABILITIES.
LONGER I WAIT, MORE PEOPLE ARE SURE TO BE KILLED.
ONE BIG ADVANTAGE--
--SINCE WE X-MEN ARE INVISIBLE TO ELECTRONIC SENSORS...
...THE ROBOT WON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HIT HI--
OWW!
FWAP!


NOT FAR AWAY...
ARE YOU ANGRY, ROBERT?
IT WAS ONLY MEANT IN FUN.
SIGH!
SHARON, I'M A UNITED STATES SENATOR.
I RAN FOR PRESIDENT ONCE, I MAY DO SO AGAIN.
HAVE YOU NO COMPREHENSION OF MY POSITION--OR YOURS, AS MY WIFE?

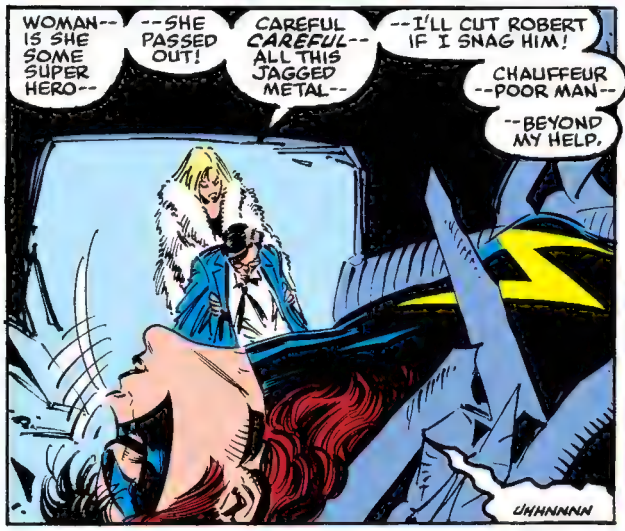

OF COURSE!
ROBERT, I THOUGHT YOU KNEW ME BETTER THAN THAT!
I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO SHAME OR EMBARRASS YOU--I'D NEVER HAVE PULLED THAT STUNT IN FRONT OF ANYONE OTHER THAN YOU OR MR. SHAW--I MEAN, HE'S A FRIEND AS WELL AS MY OLD BOSS--AND THE MAN WHO INTRODUCED US--
--DON'T YOU HAVE ANY IDEA YET HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME?


HOW VERY, VERY MUCH I LOVE--
BTHAM

OH
SOMETHING
OW
HIT US
OH
CAR ALL BUSTED
OW
I'M ALL BUSTED
OH
HURT INSIDE
OW
ROBERT!
OH
HE'S UNCONSCIOUS!
OW
WHO'S THAT COSTUMED WOMAN?
HE HIT ME!
SENSED MY ATTACK.
BUT--HOW?!!


CAROL'S KAYO'D.
AH'M IN CHARGE NOW.
SERVES HER RIGHT.
STUPID DOOR'S JAMMED, CAN'T OPEN IT!
HARD TO FOCUS THOUGHTS-- MOVES--
--THAT WAS SOME PUNCH!
LADY... NEEDS A HAND.

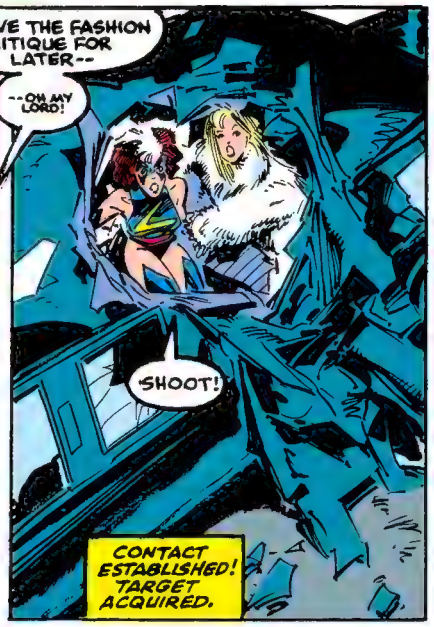
OUT'CHA GO, SUGAR!
PUNKT!

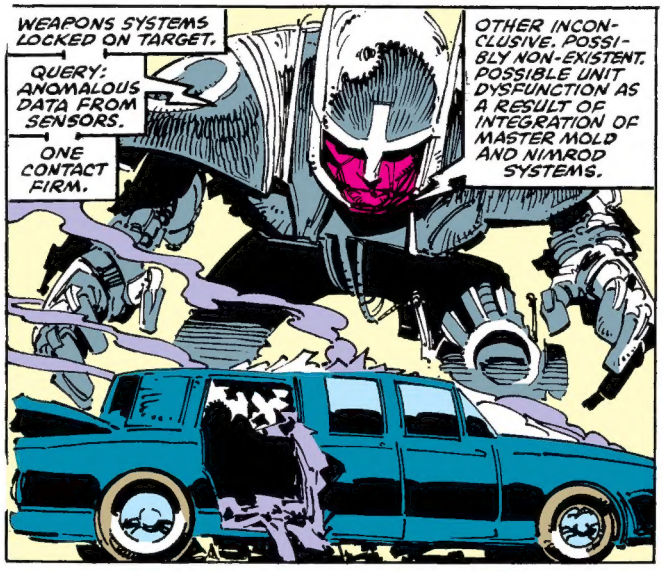

WOMAN-- IS SHE SOME SUPER HERO--
--SHE PASSED OUT!
CAREFUL CAREFUL-- ALL THIS JAGGED METAL--
--I'LL CUT ROBERT IF I SNAG HIM!
CHAUFFEUR --POOR MAN--
--BEYOND MY HELP.
UHHNNNN

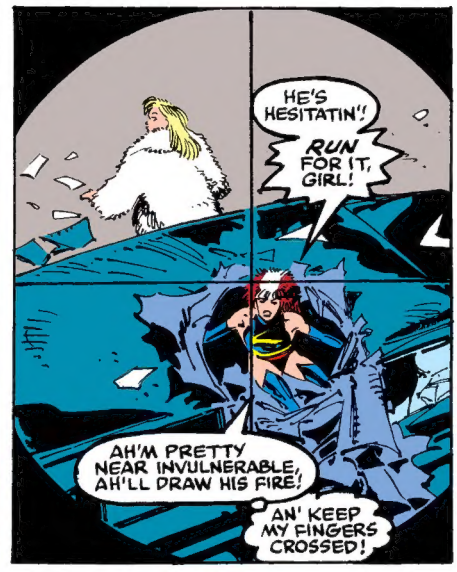
SHARON--
--WHA-HOPPON--
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
THERE'S SOMEONE STILL IN THE CAR!
DON'T BE A FOOL!
WAIT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, THAT'S THEIR JOB!

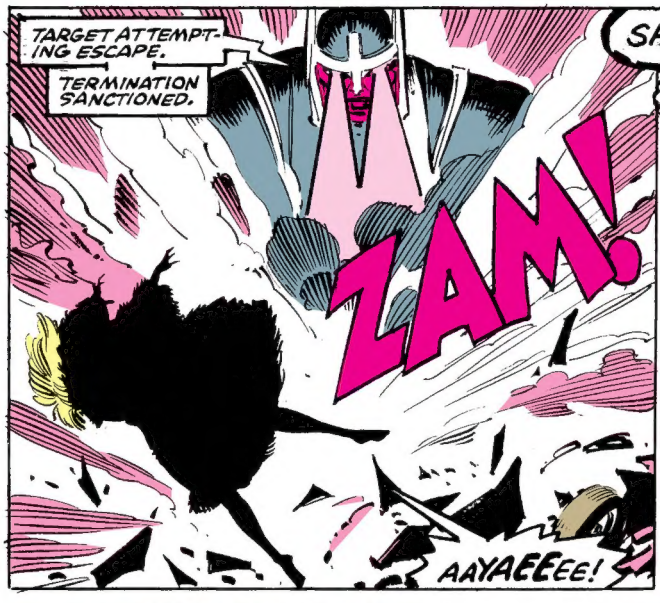
THEY'LL BE TOO LATE!
SHE'S PINNED!
CAN'T BUDGE THE METAL--
--WAKE UP, YOU!
IF YOU CAN--
--GIVE ME A HAND!

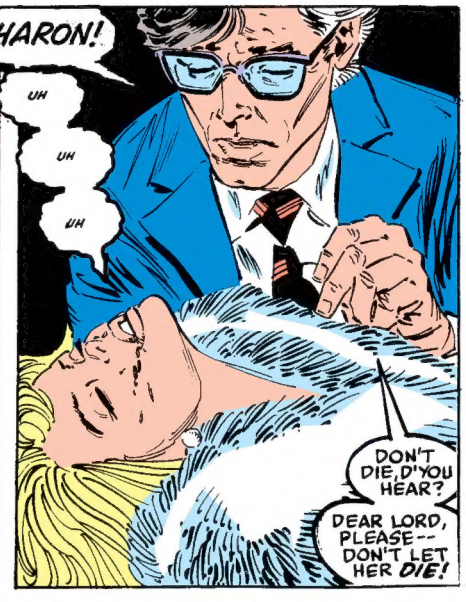
NO NEED T' YELL, SUGAR, AH HEAR YOU.
WHAT IS THIS RAG AH'M WEARIN'?!

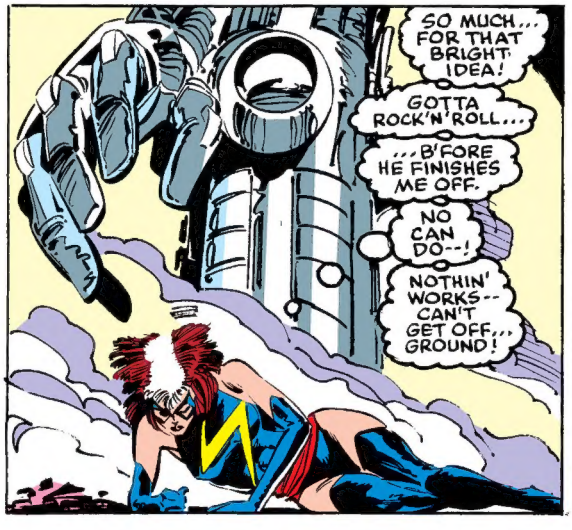

SAVE THE FASHION CRITIQUE FOR LATER--
--OH MY LORD!
SHOOT!
CONTACT ESTABLISHED! TARGET ACQUIRED.

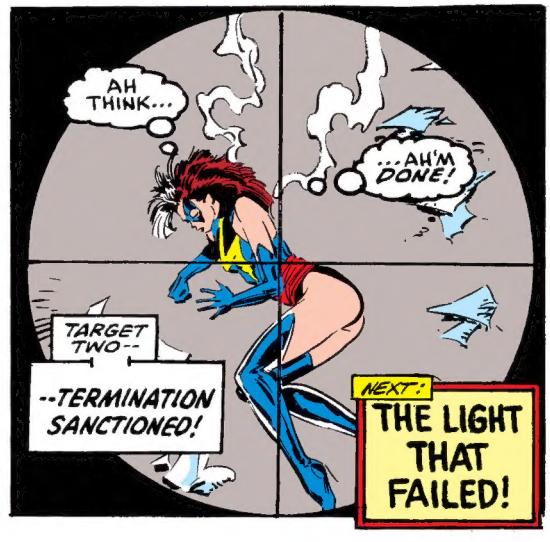

WEAPONS SYSTEMS LOCKED ON TARGET.
QUERY: ANOMALOUS DATA FROM SENSORS.
ONE CONTACT FIRM.
OTHER INCONCLUSIVE. POSSIBLY NON-EXISTENT. POSSIBLE UNIT DYSFUNCTION AS A RESULT OF INTEGRATION OF MASTER MOLD AND NIMROD SYSTEMS.


HE'S HESITATIN'!
RUN FOR IT, GIRL!
AH'M PRETTY NEAR INVULNERABLE, AH'LL DRAW HIS FIRE!
AN' KEEP MY FINGERS CROSSED!


TARGET ATTEMPTING ESCAPE.
TERMINATION SANCTIONED.
ZAM!
AAYAEEEE!


SHARON!
UH
UH
UH
DON'T DIE, D'YOU HEAR?
DEAR LORD, PLEASE-- DON'T LET HER DIE!


SO MUCH... FOR THAT BRIGHT IDEA!
GOTTA ROCK'N'ROLL...
...B'FORE HE FINISHES ME OFF.
NO CAN DO--!
NOTHIN' WORKS-- CAN'T GET OFF... GROUND!


AH THINK...
...AH'M DONE!
TARGET TWO--
--TERMINATION SANCTIONED!
NEXT:
THE LIGHT THAT FAILED!

BOB HARRAS: editor — DARYL EDELMAN: assistant editor

X-MAIL

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP –
387 Park Avenue South – New York, New York – 10016

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so.

Dear X-Editors,

I would like to personally congratulate you guys on a job well done on the Brood and Genoshan storyline. Although this letter doesn't have to do with any X-Men issues, I'm still going to make references to some issues. I would like to talk to you about the members of X-Men.

Wolverine: He's the only X-man left that knows what's the good and bad thing the team should be doing. For example, in the Brood stories Wolverine fought off most of the Brood and still fought on after having a Brood egg implanted inside his body. He knows when and where something should be done to his enemies.

Colossus: He seems to be the only member of the team that's really following Prof. Xavier's purpose. You should give him a bigger part in the stories. For the past few issues, he has been blocking bullets (not an important job for one of the most powerful X-Men).

Rogue: She is one of the best characters ever made by Marvel. Her mutant power is great and she should get her own book. One thing, give her back her old costume, the one she wore in The Fall of the Mutants.

Havok: He seems to be taking the place his brother, Cyclops, had in the X-Men with his plasma blasts. He shouldn't get too hung up on this killing stuff, especially if he killed a murderer.

Longshot: You guys still get better at developing his character. Give him a bigger part in lines. He says about 3 lines every issue.

Dazzler: Her relationship with Longshot is good for her character. There's not much to say about her except "Change her costume!" The one she has on right now is making her look like a 13 to 15 year old. Give her the one she wore during The Fall of the Mutants.

Psylocke: She is the least important member of the team right now. If the X-Men lost her, it wouldn't be such a tragedy. But since she's around, lose that cape she has on.

Storm: She doesn't deserve to be leader of the X-Men. During The Fall of the Mutants, Wolverine was a great leader. Wolverine does everything in actions, while Storm shows them in words.

The stories now seem boring compared to the older ones. I'm glad that you guys have CLASSIC X-MEN out on the market. It lets me read the X-MEN stories I missed when I didn't collect X-MEN. I also bought the Dark Phoenix Saga trade paperback. Those stories seem to be the best X-MEN, and also the most exciting. Please make some of your present work like the ones from the good ol' days.

I have some questions for you:

1) Who is going to be the permanent penciler, Silvestri or Leonardi?

2) If Wolverine's mutant power is his healing factor, then wouldn't he be immortal? When you die of old age, your respiratory system cuts out on you or another system in your body, but since his healing factor can cure anything, he should be able to live forever.

Until Wolverine breaks his right arm, Make Mine Marvel!!!

Wayne H.
(address withheld by request)

Here are your answers:

1)Marc is our regular penciler, and we're pleased as punch. Rick may lend us a hand from time to time. . .and we think that's just dandy.

2)Check out upcoming hints in Wolvie's own mag, Wayne. He sure ain't immortal, but . . .

And, by the way, keep an eye on Longshot and Dazzler. Things are about to happen!

Dear X-Men staff:

I'll try to make this short. I love the X-Men. They have been my favorite Marvel characters for the past ten years. But I do not always agree with some of the things you do. A case in point is the love affair between Maddie and Alex. You guys really missed the ethical boat on this one. Maddie is still married to Scott. Her marriage may be beyond repair and Scott may believe her to be dead, but Maddie must know that she will probably see Scott again. Does she want Alex that much? Or is she just trying to hurt Scott? Alex's behavior is even worse. He has, until fairly recently, been seriously involved with Lorna Dane. Now Lorna may currently be possessed by Malice, but Malice can be beaten (as in X-Men 214). Has Alex forgotten about Lorna so soon? Doesn't he care that he is fooling around with his brother's wife? To compound this situation, the rest of the X-Men seem to approve of this affair. C'mon guys, just because infidelity occurs in our world doesn't mean it must happen to the X-Men and their extended family. The X-Men seem to have a code of ethics for dealing with bad guys, how about having them extend some ethical behavior toward each other, okay?

Michael Cannon
3402 North 32nd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Michael, as revealed in recent issues of both X-MEN and X-FACTOR, Maddie was Jean Grey's clone and thus, a telepath of considerable power. Since she desired Alex. . .for her own reasons. . .and would not tolerate any interference, she gently tampered with the X-Men's minds so that any concern they may have felt about the affair was nullified.

Dear X-Editors:

In X-MEN #237 it was stated on page 4, panel 5 that Wolverine was dying due to the inability to produce red blood cells to sustain his life. Now, myself and a few friends who read X-MEN naturally figured that due to the lacing of adamantium in his bones the adamantium was interfering with the bone marrow's production of new blood cells. At the same time as buying X-MEN #237 I purchased a copy of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, Vol. 8 which happens to contain the write-up on Wolverine. Upon reading Wolverine's description I found a passage stating that "the presence of adamantium in his skeleton DOES NOT interfere with the bones' normal function of generating blood corpuscles."

What I would like to know is, does adamantium really interfere with his blood production, with his healing factor compensating this production, or was this just a minor technical error on your behalf??

Christopher T. Klein
161 Garland Street
Springfield, MA 01118

Yes, having foreign metal inside one's body does interfere with the bones' normal functioning, so when Wolverine's healing powers were removed by Wipeout, his body was at the mercy of the metal. So where's the technical error?

Dear X-People,

A few words about X-Men #238:
WOW!
SPECTACULAR!!
STUPENDOUS!!!!

Translation: the artwork in X-MEN #238 was a dream come true. Realistic looking drawings! I have to admit, I was impressed. Thrilled, even. When Marc Silvestri first started drawing the X-Men, I was disappointed. The characters looked 2-dimensional and slightly warped. As I hoped, he has improved greatly since then and continues to do so (you guys better not get rid of him now, for your sakes).

The writing was, as always, great. Chris' writing is the only one in which I can't anticipate the complete ending. I can't wait to see the confrontation between X-Men and X-Factor. (Go X-Men! Rah! Rah! Rah!)

Now, for a question that has been driving many people crazy. What is Madelyne's son's name? Or is he going to be called Madelyn's baby all of his life? I know he has a name, and that it's been treated like a state secret, but what is it? (I know, I know, "wait for Inferno.") Sheesh!) By the way, if Scott ends up with the baby I will be very upset!!

Viva les X-Men! (I do so love them, don't I?)

Cat A.
2741 N. 6th Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33024

His name is Nathan Christopher Charles Summers, Cat. Maddie insisted on Nathan. . .but we have a feeling Scott's going to drop that real soon. After all, that was Mr. Sinister's name as a child.

Yow X-Mail,

After reading X-Men #235 thru #238 I woke up one morning and thought to myself: "y know kid these guys couldn't really resist shoving in a little social commentary. I know it's gotta be in there I just can't figure what it is," and then it all came together: Mutie Train like the train Black workers ride into Soweto, high standard of living for some based on sweat and blood of others, bonded colored suits that make Mutants highly visible like the skin that makes blacks visible in South Africa. Yeah, tell me this story isn't really a story about South Africa and I'll eat dog food for a week. You know it's all clear now: indifference of the general populace, mutants thought of as organic machines so no one cares what happens to them. "Mutant Settlement Area?" Tell me that isn't a Black Township and I'll sell my hamster into rodent slavery.

I don't think I need to go any further to prove the point. I have read X-Men since time began. I honor this great magazine which has a social conscience to boot.

Until water runs uphill, make mine MARVEL!

Robert Louden
318 Simonston Blvd
Thornhill, Ontario
L3T 4T5, CANADA

Thanks, Robert

Dear X-People,

Only one word could sum up issue #238, AWESOME! The story of Genosha and the Genegineer is great. I really love the direction Chris Claremont is taking the X-MEN, and Marc Silvestri's art is getting better and better every issue.

I do have a few minor questions to ask though. Since when have Havok and Madelyne become romantically inclined? On page 26, panel 7, Madelyne is quoted saying "'Bout time, lover." Did this feeling just appear out of nowhere or was Madelyne just kidding around? Another question is, Dazzler was flying in Annual #12, why isn't she flying in the latest issues? With Carol Danvers' psyche in control of Rogue's body, why can't Carol learn to control Rogue's powers? Last but not least, how much can Marvel's greatest character (in our opinion), Colossus, bench now?

Keep up the great work, and until Wolverine shaves his sideburns, make ours MARVEL!

Jim and Mike Hayes
201 E. Johnson
Clay Center NE 68933

Maddie and Alex had been interested in each other for some time, Jim and Mike. We tend to think things started to heat up back in issue #223.

GENOSHAN storyline, and I must say it had been one of the best sagas of the X-MEN in later years.

It is good to see heroes fighting so strongly against oppression and abuses of power, something that is usually shoved aside by fights against super crooks with outrageous ideas to destroy/dominate the world. Don't get me wrong, those stories are not bad when handled correctly, it is only that stories like this latest X-MEN adventure get much closer to a feeling of reality. Sad is to say that, if not mutants, blacks are going through abuses like this, and imaginary fights against Genosha can make us remember, think about real things like apartheid. Maybe it will get people thinking hard enough to do something about it.

Good job, guys

Emiliano Feliberti III
San Juan, Puerto Rico

To the Makers of the X-Men,

I'd like to do something I've never seen done before. I'd like to complement Tom Orzechowski on the great job of lettering he does in every issue of the X-Men.

Tom Orzechowski is a letterer without peers. His magnificent style is unique. I can pick up any comic, whether it be an issue of the X-Men, Classic X-Men, Marvel Comics Presents, or any other comic, and with a mere glimpse at any page, can tell if it's an Orzechowski book. Tom has a distinguished easily readable style which is unequalled by any other letterer. Tom, unlike other sometimes annyoying letterers, only makes important words in bold print. His "GYAHGH"s, "urgkgh"s, and "WHOULLFF"s are extraordinary. And I just love his lower-cased "huh"s, an Orzechowski trademark.

Chris Healy
475 Scranton Avenue
Lynbrook, NY 11563

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